

Sanctions imposed to back Kuwait

World anger stirred by Iraqi invasion

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND ANDREW McEWEN IN LONDON

WORLD leaders moved swiftly yesterday to impose sanctions against Iraq after its pre-dawn invasion of Kuwait and to protect the tiny Gulf state's assets from the puppet regime installed by Baghdad.

The United States, Britain and France froze both Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets and Nato nations were urged to ban all trade with Iraq. The Soviet Union, Iraq's biggest arms supplier, halted weapons sales to Baghdad.

President Bush condemned the Iraqi action as "unprovoked aggression" and sent seven more warships into the Gulf region, including the carrier Independence. But he played down the prospect of military intervention, in spite of Kuwait's appeals for military help from the United States and fellow Arab nations.

Mr Bush signed an executive order at 6 am freezing Iraqi assets. He later curtailed his meeting with Margaret Thatcher at Aspen, Colorado, returning to Washington yesterday evening to concentrate on events in the Gulf. James Baker, the Secretary of State, was summoned back from Mongolia, and will today fly to Moscow to issue a joint statement with the Soviet Union calling for an Iraqi withdrawal.

The 2 am invasion, which prompted a flurry of emergency meetings around the globe, was condemned by East and West alike but was greeted

with a determined silence by the Arab world with only Iran, Iraq's enemy in the eight-year Gulf war, calling for an immediate withdrawal.

Oil prices surged and London crude peaked at \$24 a barrel before settling at \$22.70. Fears of a new oil price shock to world economies that could lead to higher interest rates sent share prices falling in the main financial centres.

Iraq remained defiant in the face of the world's opposition. Thousands of elite troops had swept over the border in a lightning attack and quickly gained control of the neighbouring state. The Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, fled to Saudi Arabia before the invading force captured his seaside Desman Palace, but his younger brother, Fahd, was reported to have been killed trying to defend the palace. Between 100 and 200 people were reported to have been killed or injured in the battles across the country.

Iraq claimed it had responded to an appeal from "young revolutionaries who wanted its support in a coup to install a new free government" and, by mid-afternoon the "Provisional Free Government of Kuwait" was broadcasting on state radio that it had deposed the Emir and was imposing an indefinite curfew. Nine hours after brushing aside Kuwait's limited border defences, Iraqi troops entered most key buildings in Kuwait City, and Baghdad announced it had toppled the Kuwaiti government.

Iraq later said that it hoped to withdraw its forces within a few days or weeks, "as soon as the situation is settled down and as soon as the free government of Kuwait has so wished". A statement threatened that Baghdad would turn Kuwait into a graveyard if any outside power intervened.

A Kuwaiti radio station managed to broadcast urgent appeals for help from the Arab world, which became more desperate through the morning. "How could Arab blood be shed by Arab hands?" the radio asked. "How could an Arab occupy the land of his Arab brother?"

The Arab League's council held an emergency meeting in Cairo, but officials emerged tight-lipped after a two-hour session. Few Arab states were willing to become embroiled in a conflict with their most powerful and unpredictable member. However, Syria called for an Arab summit.

Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs, Saudoun Hammadi, attacked the decision to hold the emergency Arab League meeting, which he said was harmful and against pan-Arab interests. Asked about Kuwait's request to Arab ministers to send a joint force to drive the invaders from its territory, he replied: "There is no government in Kuwait. The regime in Kuwait is gone and has been replaced by a revolutionary government."

The suggestion that Iraq had responded to a genuine coup was rejected by an pre-dawn meeting of the UN Security Council in New York. The US ambassador, Thomas Pickering said that although the invasion had been carefully planned and professionally executed, Iraq had made a serious mistake. "Instead of staging their coup

d'etat and installing this so-called provisional government before the invasion, they got it the wrong way around. They invaded Kuwait and then staged the coup d'etat in a blatant and deceitful effort to try to justify their action."

In Brussels, the United States asked its Nato allies to ban all trade with Iraq, including oil, and to freeze Iraqi assets in their countries. "The idea is to cripple Iraq totally, chiefly by refusing to buy any of their oil," a Nato source said.

Britain and France immediately joined Washington in freezing Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets. The Bank of England was last night drawing up a ban on all share dealing with the Kuwait government or Kuwait residents and the International Stock Exchange advised its members not to do any business with Kuwait and to ensure that no deals had been done on behalf of Kuwait yesterday. Stockbrokers were asked to unwind any deals that may have been done.

A senior aide to Mrs Thatcher, who "unreservedly condemned" the invasion, said Britain was using all possible means to make clear that Iraq had to pull its troops out of Kuwait. "What we do next depends on what Iraq does over the next 48 hours," the spokesman said. "We feel that two days is about the right interval to give the Iraqis time for reflection."

Britain, with historic ties to both Iraq and Kuwait, will have little alternative but to reject the idea of military action. The Royal Navy's presence in the Gulf, the Armilla patrol, consists of three warships and a support vessel. The destroyer HMS York and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Oranger, were in Dubai. The crews were put on short notice to leave if necessary. But the other two ships were outside the Gulf. The frigate HMS Jupiter was at Mombasa and the frigate HMS Battler was at Penang.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary who was woken in the early hours to be told of the invasion, likened President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to Hitler and Stalin, a comparison also made by the Israeli defence minister, Moshe Arens, who said President Saddam was "today's Adolf Hitler, gobbling up one country after another."

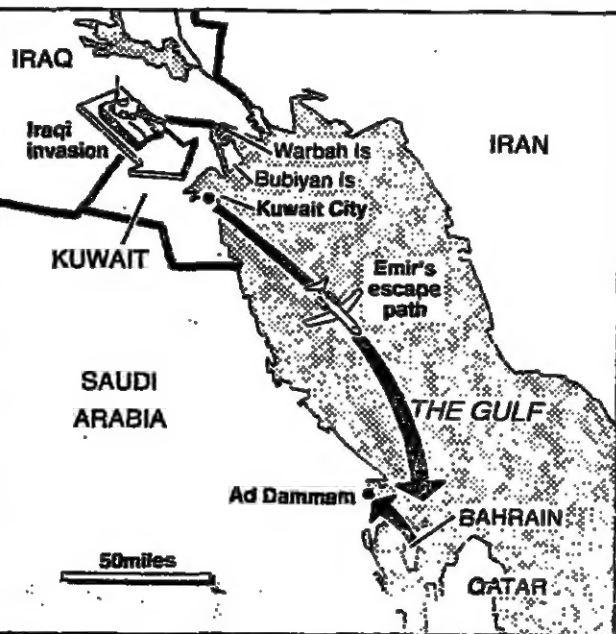
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Saddam Hussein: likened by Douglas Hurd to Hitler



Iraqi troops taking cover behind an armoured personnel carrier yesterday as Kuwaiti resistance troops open fire in the Sabaya district of Kuwait



Thatcher attacks military action

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR IN WASHINGTON, AND PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher yesterday unreservedly condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which is expected to dominate her talks with President Bush in Colorado. Her condemnation was relayed by Downing Street, which said the invasion undermined the need for military readiness and international co-operation in a world of declining superpower influence.

Gerald Kauffman, the shadow foreign secretary, however, branded Britain's response to ominous acts by Iraq so far this year as flabby. He described Saddam Hussein as one of the world's greatest dangers to peace.

Mr Kauffman said: "This aggression by Iraq must not only be condemned in the strongest possible terms but immediate economic sanctions must be imposed on Iraq by the world community."

The European Community should have an emergency meeting. A list of economic sanctions should be drawn up and imposed immediately. "These should include an oil embargo and a banning of international flights to and from Iraq," he said.

Sir David Steel, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, said the United Kingdom should be willing to allocate military support to the Gulf states.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who rebuffed Mr Kauffman's accusation that the government's response had been inadequate, urged his EC

counterparts to arrange a meeting of the 12 political directors within 48 hours. Whitehall sources said an oil embargo and the freezing of Iraqi assets in Europe were likely to be considered.

David Howell, chairman of the all-party foreign affairs committee, said that if Iraq did not get out of Kuwait there must be a total freeze on all trade. "We should contemplate a unified, Soviet-backed, plan to get Iraq out. Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to stay there. There would have to be a unified military operation to get them out. He cannot be allowed to sit on his latest victim."

Downing Street sources refused to speculate on what action might be taken if Iraq did not withdraw. The government supports a 48-hour cooling-off period to give Iraq time to respond to a UN Security Council resolution calling for withdrawal.

The prime minister was told of the attack on the first day of her trip to Aspen where she was to meet Mr Bush and make a speech on international security after the cold war. The invasion has thrown the issues on which she is to speak into high relief. British sources said it underlined the importance of the points she was going to make, including the role of the UN and international peacekeeping forces.

Muted Arab reaction, page 2

Petrol prices expected to rise by up to 15p

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR, AND RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

PETROL prices could rise by between 10p and 15p a gallon in a matter of days because of soaring oil prices, adding substantially to inflation and embarrassing the Government. Even the most conservative oil analysts in London suggest that the price of four-star leaded petrol will rise by 8p a gallon.

Spot prices for gasoline on international markets surged so much that the big oil companies were delaying considering possible petrol price increases until the volatility dies down.

In London, crude prices peaked at \$24 a barrel and settled at \$22.70 in later trading. Observers estimate that prices could settle at \$23 a barrel if no further production capacity is lost as a result of the conflict.

At present, only Kuwait, where production has stopped, is affected, although it is expected that Iraqi output could be curtailed by sanctions. Other Opec nations in the Gulf, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, remain unaffected.

Fears of a new oil price shock to the world economy leading to higher interest rates sent share prices falling in all the main financial centres. In Tokyo, the Nikkei index fell by nearly 2 per cent, to 30,245. In London, the FTSE 100 index closed down 34.5 at 2304.5 while on Wall Street the Dow was down 35 points in early trading.

Investors looking for safe havens for their money pushed the dollar up half a penny in London to DM1.5980. Gold rose by more than \$5 an ounce to \$378.75.

Yesterday's rise in the benchmark price of Brent crude oil \$22.70 is a much smaller increase than in the previous two oil shocks. In 1973 the price of oil roughly quadrupled from about \$2.50 to \$10 and in 1979 it doubled again from \$15 to \$30.

However, if the rise in the price is maintained - and Iraq pressed at last week's Opec meeting for an increase to \$25 and later \$30 - the effect on the world economy is likely to be in the same direction as on the previous two occasions.

In Britain, the immediate price rise on petrol would increase the retail price index by about 0.2 per cent, pushing up the August peak in inflation to well over 10 per cent.

The effect of higher oil prices in Britain depends not only on the price in dollars but also on the sterling-dollar exchange rate. Yesterday the pound fell 90 points to \$1.85, but since last year it has risen from an average rate of \$1.64.

New forecasts by the London Business School suggest that in the longer-term inflation could be slightly lower because bigger overseas earnings from oil could raise the exchange rate. On the assumption of a oil price of \$26 in 1992, inflation could be half a percentage point lower than otherwise at a little over 4 per cent. Growth in output, however, would also be about half a percentage point lower.

North Sea oil producers said yesterday that it would be impossible to increase output to meet any shortfall that might be caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (Kerry Gill writes).

The UK Offshore Operators' Association said 1.7 million barrels of oil a day had to be produced to maintain Britain's self-sufficiency. Because of maintenance schedules, which could not be altered, the oil flow in the British sector was falling and

would drop to 1.5 million barrels next month. It would not reach the required level until the end of October.

Yesterday's series of wildcat strikes by offshore sub-contractors' employees, which affected more than 30 platforms, could throw out the maintenance schedules if the strikes continued over the coming few months.

"The longer these disputes go on, the more difficult it is for Britain to protect its balance of payments at a time when oil production in the Middle East is being threatened," the operators' association said.

In Northern Ireland where all refined products are imported from mainland Britain or further afield since the closure of the Belfast refinery some years ago, there was panic buying as the news from Kuwait sank in.

Shell recalled tanker drivers from holiday to its Belfast and Londonderry terminals and hired additional tanker lorries to meet a huge spate of orders, the company's general manager for Northern Ireland, Mr Ken Armstrong, said.

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INSIDE

Jobs to go at Midland

Midland Bank is to undergo urgent restructuring after Sir Kit McMahon, its chairman, apologised for "clearly unacceptable" profits in the first half of the year and promised net job cuts of 4,000.

The bank made profits before exceptional write-offs of £74 million, down from £301 million. The bank, however, is now thought to be close to a merger with the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank. Page 21

BR attacked

British Rail is criticised after a survey of consumer satisfaction with public services. Lady Wilcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council, which commissioned the survey, says in the report published today: "Nearly a third of its customers think that it is poor at listening to them and taking care of them." Page 4

Students' cash

Universities are to be given more than £9 million each year by the government to help students most affected by the loss of welfare and housing benefit under the new social security bill. The money is to complement the student loans scheme. Page 7

No amnesty

Yasin Abu-Bakr, who surrendered on Wednesday after holding more than 40 hostages in the Trinidad parliament building, could be hanged for murder. Government officials denied the rebels had been granted an amnesty. Page 9

Report rejected

The government yesterday rejected the key recommendations of a report by a Conservative-dominated Commons committee that sharply criticised the trade and industry department's handling of the House of Fraser affair. Page 20

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Invaders likely to find royal coffers empty

By ALAN HAMILTON

KUWAIT'S previous ruler, Sheikh Sabah, is said to have ended his daily prayers with the imprecation: "Allah, tell me and my people what we are to do with all our money." The Almighty appears to have replied with sound advice: get it out of the country.

Yesterday Sabah's cousin and successor, Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah, whose family have ruled Kuwait since 1759 and who has himself been ruler since 1977, fled his modest royal palace into the arms of one of the few men in the world who outrank him in wealth, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. The invading Iraqis are likely to find the royal coffers empty.

Reports say that the sheikh, accompanied by his brother, summoned helicopters to take them from the palace to Kuwait airport, from where they were flown to the safe haven of Bahrain,

known throughout the Gulf for its tolerant attitude towards religion, alcohol and money, and then to Ad Damman in Saudi Arabia. The Kuwaiti aircraft spent several hours on the ground, unloading a mysterious cargo while the airport was heavily guarded by security forces.

Vast amounts of Kuwait's wealth have long been exported to safer havens. An anonymous wooden door in an office block near St Paul's Cathedral in London conceals the Kuwait Investment Office, whose largely Scottish staff manage an investment portfolio which, by common agreement in the City, approaches £50 billion.

The KIO is a significant shareholder in many British companies, including BP, the Midland Bank, and a swathe of development along the South Bank of the Thames. During the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Kuwait

last year the architecturally-minded Prince indulged in discussion with Sheikh Jaber about the undesirability of spoiling the London skyline.

In spite of his vast assets in Britain Sheikh Jaber is much less of an Anglophile than many other Gulf potentates having had an almost entirely conventional Islamic education. Kuwait imposes a strict alcohol embargo on incoming visitors but those who have worked there know that few of the ruling family's homes are without their copious stocks of Johnnie Walker Black Label and English gin.

Islamic propriety does not extend to all members of the Kuwaiti royal family. Earlier this year Princess May Abdullah, aged 29, a cousin of the Emir said to live in London on an allowance of £250,000 a year, was given a six-month suspended sentence at Middlesex Guildhall crown court on drugs charges.



The Emir: his mysterious cargo under heavy guard



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IRAQ'S INVASION OF KUWAIT

Capture of disputed islands takes pressure off Tehran

By ROGER OWEN

IRAQ'S invasion of Kuwait has its roots in the recent Iraq-Iran war. A main reason why President Saddam Hussein began hostilities against Tehran was to regain control of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, which Iraq had been forced to surrender to the Shah of Iran at the Algiers Conference of 1975. He was unable to achieve his aim, despite gaining the upper hand militarily and forcing Iran to declare a ceasefire. He also incurred huge wartime debts of perhaps \$30-\$40 billion (\$16 billion-\$21 billion) to the rich Arab Gulf states, notably Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In the past few months, however, President Saddam has been presented with opportunities to make up for what he lost in the war. President Rafsanjani of Iran responded favourably to his new peace initiative as well as to Iraqi efforts to ensure sufficient Opec discipline to force up the oil price. He may also have

agreed, at least tacitly, to an Iraqi move against Kuwait knowing that, if President Saddam gained another means of access to Gulf waters by seizing Kuwait's northern islands of Warbah and Bubiyan, he might be willing to share, rather than to dominate, the Shatt al-Arab.

The stage was set for President Saddam's July 17 speech in which he accused the rulers of Kuwait of conspiring to bring down the price of oil, stealing Iraqi oil from the shared Rumaila field and other border violations. All this was couched in terms designed to present Iraq as the champion of Arab rights and Kuwait as the tool of imperialist forces led by the United States. Two weeks of hectic diplomacy followed, marked by a sharp rise in the virulence of Iraqi attacks against members of the Kuwaiti ruling family, the al-Sabahs. Direct talks between the two sides finally broke down on Tuesday when Kuwait refused a package of Iraqi

demands including a willingness to write off \$12 billion in wartime loans.

President Saddam reacted by sending more than 100,000 Iraqi troops and tanks in support of an alleged anti-Sabah coup. A new Kuwaiti government under Iraqi control was immediately established. Doubtless, President Saddam's preferred option is to negotiate a favourable treaty with the new government and withdraw. Such a move would give him access to Kuwaiti territory and money without the complications of a prolonged and probably contested invasion. President Saddam would be gambling that the international community would accept the overthrow of the autocratic al-Sabah family without resorting to sanctions.

Whether he succeeds will depend on the strength of super-power opposition. Given that American military intervention is extremely unlikely, and sanctions against a rich, well-organised, oil-producing country would be difficult to

arrange, he may pull off the move in the short term. Other question marks concern the effect this will have on the management of the Kuwaiti economy after the inevitable huge exodus of Kuwaiti and foreign experts and technicians and the response of the anti-Sabah forces in the Iranian government once they realise that a deal has been made with their former arch-enemy. The reaction of Kuwait's large Shia population, many of recent Persian origin, will certainly be a factor.

The fall-out of Iraq's move against Kuwait is enormous. Other ruling families in the Gulf will now become even more fearful of Iraqi demands and of the possibility of an externally inspired coup. The Saudis will worry that they will be squeezed between an aggressive Iraq and an Iranian leadership which is openly contemptuous of their right to rule. They will want to shore up their defences, either by placating the Iraqis, with whom they signed a treaty of

non-aggression in 1988, or by obtaining cast-iron American guarantees of support—or both. In the past the large Saudi ruling family has usually found it difficult to agree to take a strong stand against Arab rivals. But in this case the fall of the al-Sabahs should concentrate their minds. A test of resolve would be their willingness to join collective sanctions, perhaps by denying Iraq the use of the pipelines which presently carry some of its exports across Saudi territory.

Other Arab heads of state are likely to mediate to secure the reinstatement of the al-Sabahs in return for accepting Iraqi demands. But their attempt will be half-hearted given the Arab states' lack of political and military leverage over Baghdad. In these circumstances they are likely to resort to a secondary strategy of first trying to protect Saudi Arabia and then finding ways of restraining the Iraqis from further expansionism by means of a tacit Syrian, Egyptian and Jordanian alliance. They will also fear

that Israel may take advantage and launch an attack on Iraqi military facilities, increasing tension.

One thing is certain: the eastern part of the Arab world will never be the same. President Saddam's move will do much to ensure that the Gulf will cease to exist as a separate economic and political entity co-ordinated by the Gulf Co-operation Council and slide more and more under Iraqi influence. Other neighbouring regimes, such as those of Jordan and Syria, will remain uneasy spectators, unable either to influence events strongly nor to protect their western flanks by making peace with Israel or solving the conflicts in Lebanon or the West Bank. Only the man in the Arab street will rejoice, impressed by President Saddam's power and determination and unwilling to shed a tear for the al-Sabahs.

The author is a member of the Middle East Centre, St Antony's College Oxford.

Arab world keeps discreet distance in face of aggression

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN DUBAI AND HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

THE Arab world sat on its hands and did virtually nothing in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. No Arab government issued even a formal condemnation of the action by Baghdad.

Egypt's presidential spokesman referred to it as "the outbreak of military operations in Kuwait at dawn today". Official sources said President Mubarak of Egypt discussed hosting an emergency summit over the Iraqi invasion in telephone conversations with Arab heads of state.

They said the initial proposal came from President Assad of Syria, the traditional Arab foe of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. It was followed by calls from the Emir of Kuwait, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Yemeni leader, sources added. Throughout the Gulf, all eyes were on Saudi Arabia as political leaders and diplomats tried to assess the Iraqi's next move. The Saudis gave refuge to the Emir and his family but, despite their ambitions as regional peacekeepers, they have been able to do nothing to protect Kuwait.

The Gulf Co-operation Council, which comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, has a mutual defence agreement, but its component states are far outmanned and outgunned by the battle-hardened Iraqi forces. Most estimates are that the Iraqis, after their eight-year war with Iran, can put about six times as many soldiers into the field as the combined forces of the co-

operation council states. There is little likelihood of the Arab states acting alone in response to Kuwait's appeal yesterday. In the first hours of the invasion, Kuwait Radio said: "The people of Kuwait, their honour is being violated and their blood is being shed. Hurry to their aid, Arabs."

The invasion is the co-operation council's first big test. It was formed during the Iran-Iraq war as a means of preventing the spreading of conflict around the region, but in the face of overwhelming force it is militarily powerless.

Until the sudden collapse late on Wednesday of talks between the two sides in Jeddah, many diplomats and government figures in the region had believed that the tension was easing with the agreement on oil prices and production quotas in Geneva.

None of the states in the region gives any credence to Iraq's claims that its action was taken in response to appeals for help from a locally organised coup. There was unanimous agreement that Kuwait had been subjected to an attack of overwhelming force from a foreign power, but also an unwillingness to say anything that might worsen the situation or encourage further Iraqi action.

Most of the Gulf Arab states view President Saddam with a mixture of distaste and fear. They are privately horrified by his human rights abuses, but wary of his overwhelming military might and his willingness to use it.

Events were being watched particularly closely in the United Arab Emirates, which was coupled with Kuwait in

President Saddam's original complaints about over-production of oil. Any action against the emirates, however, would involve the Iraqis crossing about 500 miles of Saudi territory, and most diplomats in the region believe that respect for the American presence in the Gulf would prevent Iraq from taking such a dangerous step.

The six Gulf states are thought likely to try to use their influence through Arab diplomatic channels, such as the Arab League. Syrian calls for an emergency Arab summit were being welcomed last night although, despite promises from Baghdad, few diplomats are optimistic about the possibility of persuading President Saddam to withdraw without leaving behind a puppet regime.

While Kuwaiti tourists in Cairo wept openly and tried unsuccessfully to contact their foreign minister arriving for an emergency conference of the Arab League, the ministers held two sessions of talks behind closed doors, but were last night still unable to reach a common stand.

King Hussein of Jordan was in Cairo last night to try to persuade the Egyptians to refrain from a harsh condemnation of Iraq, but President Mubarak was said by officials to be "personally upset" by the invasion. Equally disheartening for Kuwait was the silence of Saudi Arabia, to which it was treaty-bound in the Gulf Cooperation Council, and to which it had looked for protection against foreign threats. Diplomatic silence was also the preferred response of Iran yesterday.



Kingdom lost: police stopping outraged Kuwaiti demonstrators from approaching the Iraqi embassy in London yesterday. Men, women and children, many of them weeping, tried to protest against the invasion of their country outside the Iraqi embassy (Ray Clancy writes). A

crowd of about 200 carrying flags, banners and pictures of the Emir marched out of the Kuwaiti embassy in Kensington chanting "Iraqis out, give us back our country, give us back our kingdom", as they walked the 500 yards to the Iraqi embassy in Queen's Gate. A handful of police

officers sealed off the road and the demonstrators were only allowed to gather on the opposite side of the street. Wearing traditional Arab dress, the men white robes and the women in black, the demonstrators flowed along the tree-lined street. They punched the air with their fists

as they shouted: "Kuwait for the Kuwaitis, long live the Emir". Some worked themselves into a frenzy. Many women wept and had to be helped into the shade to calm down. After about an hour the crowd moved back to the Kuwaiti embassy where they continued their demonstration.

US 'failed to take Saddam seriously'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

INDEPENDENT Middle East experts said yesterday that the Bush administration could and should have done more to deter the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and was guilty of interpreting President Saddam Hussein's military build-up on the Kuwaiti border as "sabre-rattling".

"I think we have enough experience of the Iraqi approach to projecting what it says are its interests to know that if Hussein puts troops on the border he is not bluffing," said Judith Kipper, Middle East specialist at the Brookings Institution. The Bush administration "should have taken the threat much more seriously," said Jay Kosminsky, deputy director of defence policy studies at

the Heritage Foundation. The Iraqi troop build-up "was being treated like a bluff and Saddam Hussein obviously doesn't bluff".

"We never saw it coming. The conventional wisdom was that it was a show of force to intimidate not only Kuwait but other members of Opec... we should have done something," said Bill Taylor, vice-president for international security programmes at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Washington should at the very least have convened a meeting of the United Nations Security Council at the first signs of Iraqi aggression last week, issued a joint warning with the Soviet Union to Baghdad, and moved a far

more significant military force into the area, said the experts.

President Saddam needed no pretext to invade Kuwait. Iraq is the regional super-power, but is heavily in debt after its war with Iran. Baghdad eyed Kuwait's oilfields and saw an opportunity to enrich itself and invade "for classic imperialist reasons—it's no more complex than that," said Dr Kosminsky.

President Bush denied yesterday that the invasion had taken him totally by surprise and insisted that his intelligence administration appeared to have realised very late in the day that President Saddam really intended to use his troops. Only on Wednesday afternoon, after the talks be-

tween Iraq and Kuwait had broken down, did John Kelly, the assistant secretary for Near Eastern affairs, summon the Iraqi ambassador to the State Department and warn him that the US would not tolerate military action. The warning was ignored by President Saddam just hours later.

Washington did take action to deter possible Iraqi aggression early last week, when Iraqi troops were first sent to the Kuwaiti border, but it proved inadequate for the purpose. Reacting to pleas from the United Arab Emirates, the Bush administration swiftly commenced limited military exercises in a deliberate show of force. Two destroyers were recalled from port leave in Bahrain and

ordered to join the other four warships in the US Middle Eastern force in the Gulf. Two KC135 refuelling tankers and a C141 cargo plane flew out from West Germany for joint exercises with the emirates' air force.

US ambassadors began what the administration called "active" consultations with their Middle East counterparts, while official spokesmen in Washington broadcast America's determination to maintain order in the Gulf. The US would take very seriously any threats to its interests in the region, said Pete Williams, the Pentagon spokesman, last Tuesday.

"We remain strongly committed to supporting the individual and collective self-defence of our friends in the Gulf. We also remain determined to ensure the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz and to defend the principles of freedom of navigation and commerce."

A wider charge levelled against the administration by both the independent experts and congressmen is that Washington has been too soft with President Saddam over the past few years despite his blatant drive to develop chemical and nuclear weapons and long-range missiles, his persistent abuse of human rights and his threats against Israel. "Democracies tend not to react until a crisis happens and now we have a crisis," said Ms Kipper.

Alfonse D'Amato, a Republican senator, in a challenge to the administration last week, said President Saddam was "a butcher, a killer, a bully—some day we are going to have to stand up to him".

Moscow demands swift withdrawal

FROM NICK WORRALL IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW'S official reaction to the Iraqi invasion was late coming yesterday because President Gorbachev is on holiday in the Crimea and Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, spent much of the day in a plane returning from his Siberian meeting with James Baker, the US Secretary of State.

It was mid-afternoon when a foreign ministry official, Yuri Gremitskikh, read out a statement calling for "a swift and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces" to relieve the "dangerous tension" in the Gulf. "This development of events radically contradicts the interests of the Arab states and creates additional obstacles on the road to a

solution of the conflict in the Middle East."

Mr Gremitskikh said nothing else, nor would he comment at the time on the reported request by Mr Baker to Mr Shevardnadze yesterday for the Soviet Union to halt arms supplies already agreed for Iraq. Since the mid-1970s Moscow and Baghdad have been bound by a treaty of friendship and co-operation. The Soviet Union was a main arms supplier for Iraq during the 1980-8 Gulf war with Iran.

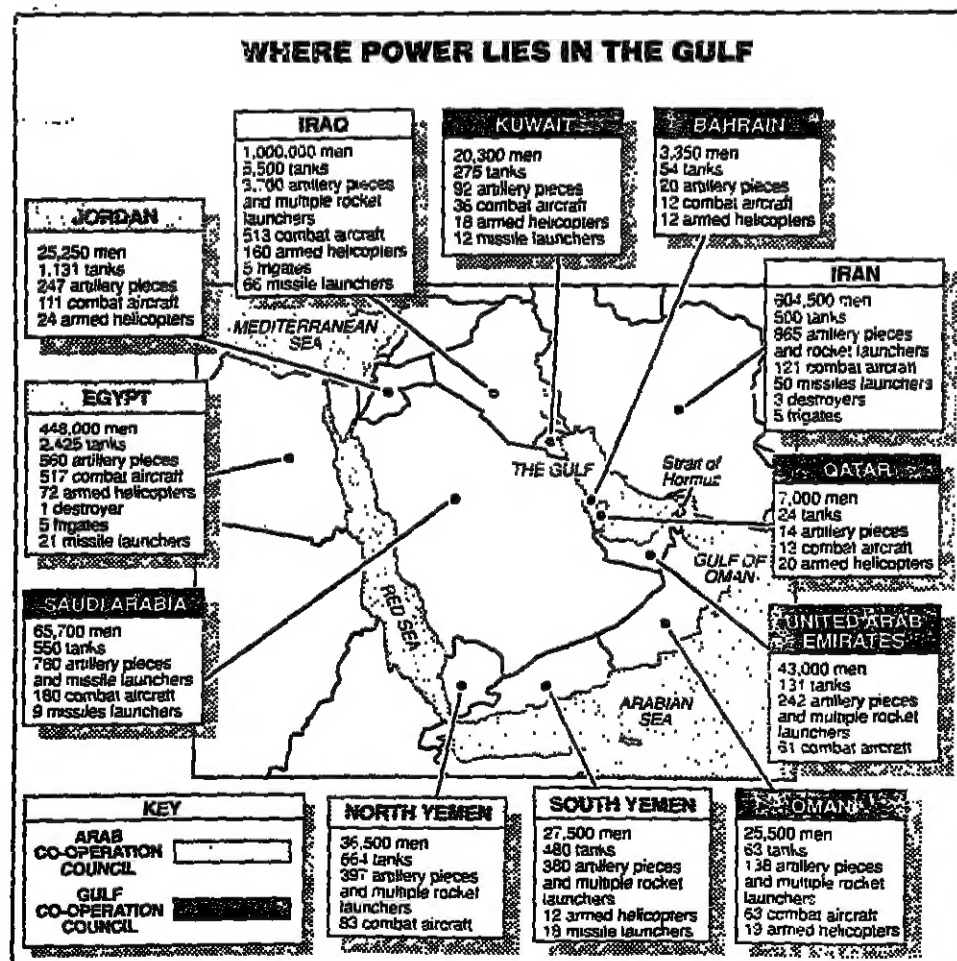
But there have been recent indications that Moscow, which is actively campaigning for a Middle East peace settlement, is now anxious to reduce the flow of weapons. Mr Baker said yesterday

that the Soviet foreign minister was "not pleased to hear that Iraqi forces had moved into Kuwait". On his arrival in Moscow, Mr Shevardnadze went into immediate session with his Middle East advisers.

Speaking to the news agency Tass on his arrival at a Moscow airport, Mr Shevardnadze said every measure should be taken to end the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. He said the Soviet Union would take all steps possible, adding: "There's no denying we are very much concerned about the conflict. I see no reason that would make it impossible to end this conflict and I hope that common sense will prevail."

According to Mr Gremitskikh there have been "many contacts" between the Soviet Union and Iraq but he could not say if Iraq's ambassador to Moscow had been called in for consultations over President Saddam Hussein's move against his neighbour.

Radio Moscow described the events as "an invasion", another indication of the growing freedom by the official Soviet media to speak out before receiving the official line from the Kremlin. Boris Belitsky, the veteran commentator, described the Iraqi invasion as "entirely unacceptable" to the Soviet Union. "The latest developments in the Persian Gulf are strongly deplored by people here in Moscow," he said.



How Middle East watchers were bemused by frontier manoeuvres

By ANDREW MCWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE experts said this was the invasion that would not happen. Middle East watchers wrongly thought that the troops that Iraq had moved to its borders with Kuwait were there to intimidate, not invade.

That view was held at the highest levels, according to Ghazi al-Rayes, Kuwait's ambassador to Britain. He said he thought that President Bush and Mrs Thatcher must be angry because they had been assured that Iraq would not use force. That information was passed back to Kuwait by several sources, including Britain. The ambassador's claim, however, puzzled a Whitehall source who said he was unaware of such assurances passing to Kuwait via Britain. Egypt is

known to have contacted a number of countries after being assured by Baghdad that there would be no invasion.

The Foreign Office reasoned that the popular logic did not support the invasion theory, but then President Saddam Hussein cannot be expected to behave in a logical manner.

Had the invasion been expected, Kuwait would have taken greater precautions. The ambassador denied reports that most of Kuwait's financial assets were moved abroad before the attack. "It's not true, because we did not expect an invasion of this sort," he said. Most of the government ministers were in the country at the time, he added.

When *The Times* contacted Middle East experts last week, most linked the troop movements to the Opec meeting in Geneva. They believed that Baghdad's

objective was to force Kuwait to cut its oil production levels and agree to a higher oil price, as well as to force it to pay compensation for oil allegedly stolen from oil fields in disputed border areas.

However, not everyone was taken in by President Saddam. Sir Anthony Parsons, a former British ambassador to Iran, cautioned that the experts were wrong in 1980 when Baghdad began to threaten Tehran. What then seemed like sabre-rattling led to an invasion. He had felt that the other experts were paying too much attention to last week's Opec meeting and not enough to Iraq's long-standing ambitions to seize Kuwait.

Valerie York, an author of books on the Middle East, said that the more Western press speculated that an invasion was unlikely, the greater the risk of President Saddam that he would try to

catch everyone by surprise. Meanwhile, the Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, still intends to proceed with an extensive state visit through the Middle East from the middle of this month, raising the prospect that he may be able to play a mediating role in the wake of the invasion. While criticising the Iraqis, Japanese government officials moved quickly to calm any domestic over-reaction to the prospect of another round of upheaval in the Middle East.

Japan, which imports all of its energy needs, with more than 70 per cent of its oil imported from the Middle East alone, is among the most exposed of any leading economic power to supply disruptions in world energy markets.

In a formal statement, the acting foreign minister, Misoji Sakamoto, termed the invasion "extremely regrettable". The statement added that Japan "strongly hopes to see the problems existing between Iraq and Kuwait resolved peacefully through dialogue, rather than through the use of armed force".

The French foreign secretary, Roland Dumas, has agreed with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that Iraq should be given two days to comply with a Security Council resolution calling on Iraq to withdraw, and the European Community is likely to hold a special high level meeting soon to agree on action. The most likely option would be to accept an American suggestion that it should ban all trade with Iraq.

In Geneva the International Committee of the Red Cross appealed to Iraq and Kuwait to respect its efforts to protect civilians and the wounded in

Kuwait. "We approached the two parties to ask them to respect their obligations according to the (Geneva) conventions," a spokesman said.

In Bonn, the Iraqi ambassador was called in on the instructions of Hans Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, to be given a strong protest about the invasion. He was told that Iraqi troops should be withdrawn immediately and unconditionally.

About 650 West German nationals live and work in Kuwait, mostly as engineers. The foreign ministry said that all of them appeared to be safe, but 16 seriously wounded Afghani children, aged between 14 and two, on their way from their home for treatment in West Germany aboard a Kuwait Airways flight, were now stranded in Dubai.

IRAQ'S INVASION OF KUWAIT

Kuwait shifts assets to Bahrain as troops strike

By DAVID WATTS

WHEN Iraqi forces raided the Central Bank of Kuwait in the early hours of yesterday they found the cupboard bare.

Killing at least two guards on the way in, President Saddam Hussein's special forces took over the nerve centre of one of the world's wealthiest economies only to find that those assets held in Kuwait City had been transferred to Bahrain as the raiding Iraqis came across the border.

So nervous was the official responsible for the movement of wealth that the transfer went through not only by telex, but also by fax and telephone. Last night, the whereabouts of the man who frustrated what was most probably one of Iraq's key objectives — relieving Baghdad's ballooning foreign debt of about \$70 billion (£38 billion) — was unknown. "Obviously his life is in danger", one source said.

Iraq owes about \$45 billion to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and a further \$15 billion to \$25 billion to the Soviet Union, France and a variety of banks in Britain and America. Indeed, it is hard to see what President Saddam hopes to gain from the invasion in the way of fiscal relief beyond the physical occupation of the disputed Kuwaiti oil fields in the islands of Warbah and Bubiyan at the head of the Gulf.

Last night, as foreign coun-

tries froze Kuwait assets abroad, it became increasingly unlikely that Baghdad would be able to gain control of significant amounts of funds or resources beyond what their troops are now guarding in the dusty wastes on the edge of the Gulf.

In a real sense, Kuwait and its economy are shells: the great majority of the population is non-Kuwaiti and the country's astonishing wealth is held mainly abroad.

Kuwait's solution to the problems of a tiny, arid Middle Eastern country unable to feed even a fraction of its population, largely Palestinian, but with enormous sums in oil revenues to invest, was to establish the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO).

From London the secretive KIO has helped to channel some of the \$100 billion-plus in global assets that Kuwait has in countries and companies abroad. As much as 90-95 per cent of Kuwait's assets are held outside the country, although President Saddam's intelligence service was probably aware that control of more and more assets has moved back to Kuwait City in recent months under a realignment of investment policy.

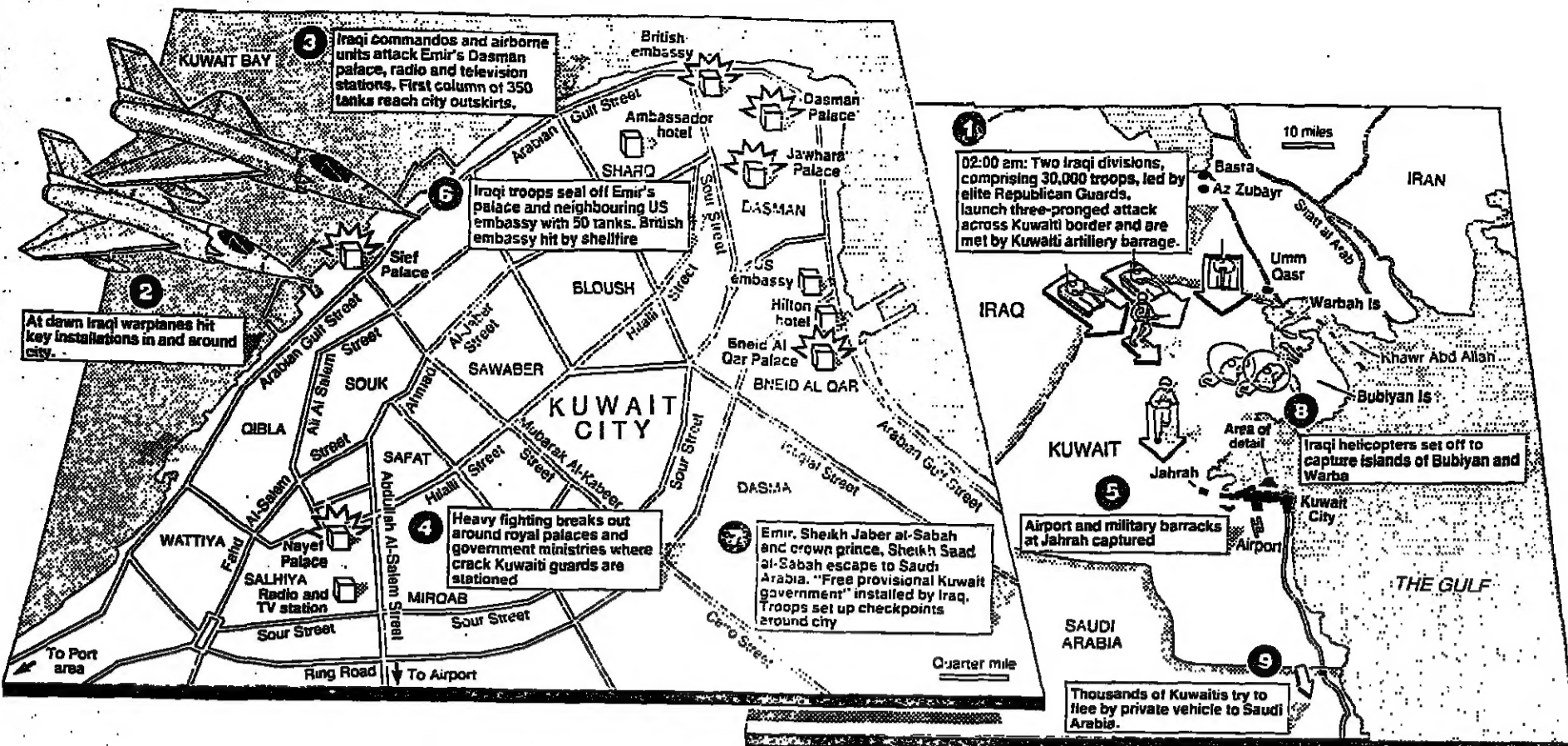
The Kuwaitis are per capita among the wealthiest nations in the world; in theory each person is worth \$2.5 million if oil is sold at \$20 a barrel. That is misleading, however. If the wealth is calculated against the mere 27 per cent of the population who are native-born Kuwaitis, the figure is even higher, but in reality the al-Sabah family which has run the country since 1759 keeps tight control of Kuwait assets.

Nominally, there is provision for legal separation of royal family and state wealth, but in reality the signatories controlling dispersal of funds are all members of the royal family or their associates.

The control of the royal family over the country's assets is virtually total, a banking expert on the Kuwait economy said. And the recent signs are that that control is being even more closely held by the al-Sabahs and their associates. That is partly for reasons of centralization of policy with the parent Kuwait Investment Authority trying to curb the independence of the KIO after the dispute with Britain over the Kuwait holding of a 21.6 per cent stake in British Petroleum, but also probably because of a need to protect Kuwait against what has now happened.

In a recent sign of that lengthy internal struggle over investment policy, the long-standing director of the KIO office in London, Mr Fouad Jafar, returned to Kuwait in March last year and resigned from the organisation.

The wealth that has so attracted President Saddam is invested in everything from Harry Ramsden's fish and chips in Yorkshire to petrol stations in the United States and Scandinavia. But if he is to get his hands on any of it, he must persuade an al-Sabah of his need.



Well planned and ruthlessly executed attack

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which began at 2am local time yesterday, was well planned and ruthlessly executed. Within 12 hours of crossing the northern border, the Iraqis, led by the elite Republican Guard Corps, had taken control of most of the capital.

About 30,000 troops, the equivalent of two divisions, including armoured brigades equipped with Soviet-made tanks, were used in the main attack across the desert towards Kuwait City, a distance by road of between 70 and 80 miles.

Some of the groundwork for the capture of the city was thought to have been carried out by Iraqi special forces brought in by ship and helicopter several hours after the main invasion units had crossed the border.

American military sources confirmed that several ships had been sent off the Kuwait coast. Some were used to mount a naval barrage on the city. There had been reports earlier in the week that as many as

100,000 Iraqi troops had assembled on the border, equipped with 500 tanks and 700 artillery pieces.

Before the invasion, which was the first time in modern history that an Arab nation had invaded another to take total control, President Saddam had ordered a military mobilisation. He recalled the Popular Army, a militia of several hundred thousand men who supported Iraqi troops at the front during the 1980-8 Gulf war with Iran. Orders were also issued to reform 15 infantry divisions and one armoured division that were disbanded after the ceasefire in 1988.

But only two divisions were deployed in the invasion. The Republican of Presidential Guards corps, whose total force consists of six divisions, including three armoured and one commando brigade, was chosen to lead the invasion because of its combat experience in the eight-year war with Iran and its commitment to the President.

It is believed that the 30,000 troops attacked at three separate border points and were met by Ku-

waiti artillery fire as they advanced rapidly down the main road towards the capital. The Iraqi armoured units had about 350 tanks, probably a mixture of Soviet T72s, T54s and T55s.

While the main force advanced towards the capital, some Iraqi units were reported to have broken away and occupied a strip of Kuwaiti territory at Abdali, 80 miles north of Kuwait City.

Troop-carrying helicopters also headed for the two uninhabited Kuwait islands of Warbah and Bubiyan, strategically located at the head of the Gulf. They dominate the approaches to the Khor Abdullah channel, where Iraq's newly refurbished naval base of Umm Qasr, and the port of Zubayr, are situated.

President Saddam has always wanted to secure the approaches to the Iraqi ports because that would reduce the pressure for an agreement with Iran on reopening the Shatt al-Arab waterway, the source of the Gulf war.

The Iraqi forces, supported by Mirage jets that bombed the city, faced the fiercest resistance when

they began the assault on the Dasman Palace, the emir's seaside residence, and other key buildings in the city. Special Kuwaiti battalions, trained by Britain's SAS to protect the emir and his ruling family, were involved in the fighting. Smoke billowed from the area and witnesses reported explosions and heavy machinegun fire.

Kuwaiti troops also put up stiff resistance at some of the country's ministries. There were heavy casualties.

However, the main palace and another belonging to the ruling family, the international airport, the central bank and the information ministry that houses the state-run radio and television stations, all fell to the Iraqis. The Kuwait National Guard continued to resist hours after the invasion, and both of the royal palaces were badly damaged. The emir's main residence was seized after two hours of heavy artillery barrages. It was surrounded by about 50 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and lorries of troops.

Kuwaiti army bases in al-Jahrah,

west of the capital, also came under Iraqi control. Ports and military airports were badly damaged after continuous artillery bombardment and air strikes. There were no reports of air combat, although Kuwaiti Mirage jets were seen flying towards the border.

On Kuwait's main road, Fahd Salem Street, Iraqi troops were seen forcing drivers out of their cars and ripping telephones out of the vehicles.

The Kuwaiti cabinet was trapped at the headquarters of the supreme defence council with telephone and telex links cut. Iraqi troops blocked the meeting but later allowed the ministers to go home.

Equipped for so many years with Soviet, French and Chinese weapons, the Iraqis soon overwhelmed the limited forces of Kuwait, whose main arms supplier has been Britain. The 71 British military personnel — 51 from the army and 20 from the RAF — in Kuwait to provide technical advice and support for the aircraft, tanks and other equipment supplied over the years took no part in the fighting.

Security Council condemns Baghdad

From CHARLES BRENNER
IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations moved with uncharacteristic speed yesterday to condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and called for immediate peace talks between the two countries.

The Soviet Union, China, the Western allies, Cuba and non-aligned states joined in denouncing Baghdad. However, the Security Council was expected to wait the outcome of Arab League meetings in Cairo before drafting sanctions or taking other steps to put pressure on Baghdad. Yemen declined to participate in the voting, saying it had not received instructions from its government.

The resolution, was modelled on the council's text denouncing Argentina for invading the Falklands in 1982. It condemned the invasion and demanded that "Iraq withdraw immediately and unconditionally all its forces" to their positions of August 1.

The Security Council also called on Iraq and Kuwait to begin negotiations to resolve their differences. Under the UN charter, the world body could use force, impose sanctions or adopt other methods including an air and sea blockade to enforce compliance by a country flouting its resolutions.

The UN has adopted sanctions several times, but it has not engaged in a hostile action in the four decades since troops were sent to assist South Korea. Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, spent the day sounding out Arab ambassadors and ambassadors of the big powers on measures to defuse the crisis.

In the council chamber, Sabah Kadrat, Iraq's deputy ambassador, faced scathing language from Thomas Pickering, of America, and Crispin Tickell, the British representative, after he said his country had been asked to establish order by the "free provisional government of Kuwait". Iraq, he said, would withdraw when the "free government" asked it to. That could come in days or weeks.

Mr Pickering said Iraq had bungled. "Instead of staging their coup d'état and installing this so-called provisional government before the invasion, they got it the wrong way around. They invaded Kuwait and then staged the coup d'état in a blatant and deceitful effort to try to justify their action."

A break from the postwar rules that maintain peace and stability

By CHRISTOPHER GREENWOOD

ONLY the Iraqis could possibly believe that they had a pretext for yesterday's invasion, and it may be wondered whether even the Iraqi spokesmen believe the words they have to mouth.

Iraq has complaints against Kuwait, ranging from an old border dispute to more recent arguments over oil exports and the repayments of credits given to Iraq during its war with Iran. Yet, even if Baghdad has a plausible case in any of these disputes, which is doubtful, that would not provide a pretext for yesterday's invasion. However important these matters may have been in supplying Iraq's motives, they have not been advanced as a legal justification.

Instead, Iraq has said it intervened at the request of Kuwaitis hostile to the emir who have now formed the "interim government of free Kuwait".

This argument has obvious attractions for Iraq. First, it can be used to explain why Iraq has invaded the whole of Kuwait rather than confining itself to the disputed border area. Second, Iraqi spokesmen using this argument will do their best to draw parallels with last year's American action in Panama.

Yet the analogy with Panama, and the entire Iraqi argument, is spurious. That is partly because the argument that international law permits "pro-democratic" military intervention in another state is unfounded. But, even if it were not, the cases of Kuwait and Panama are different. Unlike the Panamanian opposition, who had won an election but been cheated of its fruits, the "interim govern-

ment of free Kuwait" is an unknown group with no evident support in the country.

Nor could any comparison be made between the regime of General Noriega and the government of the emir, whose democratic credentials are far more impressive than those of Iraq.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the international community has been nearly unanimous in denouncing Iraq or that the UN Security Council moved with extraordinary speed to demand an immediate Iraqi withdrawal.

If Iraq's action is plainly illegal, though, what can be done about it? A glance at international reaction to past violations by Iraq is scarcely encouraging. Iraq's invasion of Iran in 1980, its use of poison gas and the massacres of its own Kurdish population attracted condemnation but little else.

The use of poison gas is particularly revealing. Iraq repeatedly resorted to this weapon in breach of one of the few treaties on weaponry that seemed to have solid support among states. Yet, because of fears of an Iranian victory, virtually no steps were taken against Iraq.

After that war was over, almost every state subscribed to a declaration repeating support for the ban on chemical weapons.

The practical lesson, however, was clear: Iraq had gained considerable military advantages by using gas and had paid almost no price for doing so.

World reaction may not be so pusillanimous this time. Unlike the situation in the Gulf war, there is no hostage crisis to swing sentiment in Iraq's favour, nothing like the Afghanistan dispute to divide the Soviet Union from the West.

There are signs of a greater willingness by states this time to support international co-operation against aggression. What form might such co-operation take? A military option seems unlikely. The UN has not taken such an action against an aggressor since Korea, and the necessary machinery for assembling a force at short notice does not exist.

America and perhaps the Gulf Co-operation Council, of which Kuwait is a member,

might respond to a request from Kuwait for military assistance but the military obstacles to such action are formidable.

The best hope probably lies in economic sanctions and the isolation of Iraq's puppet government in Kuwait.

The UN charter gives the Security Council the authority to impose such measures, and a truly international boycott of Iraqi oil, refusal of credit and a ban on exports could have a serious effect on a state trying to recover from the Gulf war.

Sanctions have a price. Now that Iraq, itself a big oil exporter, also controls Kuwait's resources, there would almost certainly be a sharp increase in oil prices, and for some states serious shortages. For Iraq's neighbours the dangers are even greater. The temptation for a state to break ranks to ensure its oil supplies or gain a lucrative market would be enormous.

Yet the long-term cost of failing to resist the Iraqi invasion would be far higher. The rules against aggression that Iraq has broken should not be dismissed as naive and unrealistic, or as mere legal abstractions. The prohibition on the use of force was the cornerstone of the new system of international relations in 1945.

It was the product of a realisation that, although a ready resort to force might provide short-term advantages, the long-term interests of states were better served by peace and stability.

This clear case of aggression gives a world that is more united than it has been for many years an opportunity to show that that principle still holds good.

But if the international community fails to react with more than words now that it is able to take a stronger line, it will show that international law on the use of force is not to be taken seriously.

If that is the case, then the principles on which international society has been based since 1945 will be seriously undermined. That is the test which the major powers must now meet.

Christopher Greenwood is a lecturer in international law and a fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Rapid descent into violence after talks broke down

How news of the Iraqi invasion and its buildup were flashed around the world by Reuter correspondents

Jedda Wednesday 2.34 pm

GMT: Talks on defusing Gulf crisis collapsed, with Iraq reported to have 100,000 men on Kuwait border.

Baghdad 4.28: Iraq said talks failed because Kuwait had not been serious.

Kuwait 4.57: Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Sabah said he looked forward to "the resumption of direct meetings and negotiations".

Washington 8.47: State Department called in Iraq's ambassador.

Kuwait Thursday 3.10 am: Diplomats said Iraqi troops had crossed Kuwait border.

Kuwait 3.53: Western diplomats said Iraqi troops had crossed into Kuwait. Explosions heard in Kuwait.

Washington 3.57: Kuwaiti embassy official said Iraqi troops had begun major offensive across Kuwait border.

Tokyo 4.25: Spot crude oil prices rose sharply in Far East trading.

Kuwait 4.29: Kuwait said Iraqi troops had crossed into its territory and occupied several border posts.

Kuwait 4.36: Kuwait defence ministry said Iraq had infiltrated country at 2am.

Washington 4.44: America said Iraqi troops had crossed border and were fighting Kuwaiti forces.

Washington 4.58: The White House condemned invasion and called for immediate withdrawal.

London 5.19: British government said incursion was a grave threat to peace and stability in the Gulf.

Kuwait 5.35: Explosions rocked Kuwait capital. Kuwait government asked Iraq "to stop this irresponsible action and reserves the right to use all legitimate means".

Kuwait 5.45: Baghdad Radio said a group of Kuwaitis was trying to overthrow the government and quoted government statement warning against foreign intervention.

Ulan Bator 5.49: US Secretary of State James Baker informed Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze of invasion and asked him to halt all Soviet arms deliveries to Iraq.

Baghdad 6.02: Iraq said

revolutionaries had overthrown Kuwait government and Iraqi troops had entered country to help the new rulers.

Kuwait 6.12: Explosions and intermittent bursts of gunfire heard in Kuwait City.

Tokyo 6.18: Tokyo stocks plummeted and yen fluctuated wildly against dollar.

Tokyo 6.26: Kuwait airport closed after being bombed.

Japan Air Lines said.

Kuwait 7.28: Kuwait asked Arab states for help.

Baghdad 7.31: Iraq said it had sent troops to support coup and warned America not to intervene by threatening to turn Kuwait into a graveyard.

New York 7.22: UN Security Council convened.

Nicosia 7.27: Iraqi troops had occupied emir's Dasman Palace and Iraqi tanks were in streets of Kuwait City.

London 8.17: Oil prices soar.

Cairo 8.31: Arab foreign ministers called meeting.

Nicosia 8.41: Gulf financial markets plunged into chaos.

Nicosia 8.53: Emir of Kuwait safe, Kuwaiti official said.

Washington 8.56: US moved aircraft carrier USS Independence towards the Gulf.

Kuwait 9.57: Iraqi troops and tanks captured key installations. Explosions and gunfire echoed around Kuwait City as Iraqis ran into resistance.

New York 11.08: UN Security Council condemned invasion and demanded immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

Washington 11.28: President Bush froze all Iraqi and Kuwait assets and property.

Amman 12.07: Jubilant mood on Amman streets as Jordan government says: "Our heart is with Iraq but we also have many interests in the Gulf".

Moscow 12.28: Soviet Union called for prompt and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal.

Kuwait 12.55: Kuwait's new Iraqi-backed rulers said they had dismissed emir and ordered indefinite curfew, according to statement read on Kuwait Radio.

Brussels 3.56: European Community condemned invasion and demanded immediate withdrawal.



High anxiety: Traders on the International Petroleum Exchange in London watching oil prices rocket by 15 per cent yesterday on the news of the invasion

Survey of public satisfaction shows BR losing steam

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH Rail has taken the booby prize in a survey of consumer satisfaction with public services. Lady Wilcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council, which commissioned the survey from MORI, says in the report published today: "British Rail comfortably takes the wooden spoon. Nearly a third of its customers think that it is poor at listening to them and taking care of them."

The survey showed that British Rail compared badly in the public estimation with bus and coach services, electricity, water, gas, post office and telephone services, although there was what the NCC termed a worrying level of dissatisfaction with almost all of the services examined.

While about half of railway users expressed themselves very or fairly satisfied, more than a quarter were dissatisfied. The

proportion of discontent was markedly higher in the London area, and overall those most likely to be happy about the standard of British Rail services were pensioners, who enjoy cheap travel privileges.

The findings showed that approximately one passenger in seven feared that British Rail paid insufficient attention to safety. Nearly half thought fares were unreasonable, even among those aged 15 to 24 who can get reductions.

The most popular public services were those provided by coach companies and local electricity and gas boards. Four-fifths of their customers expressed satisfaction.

Coach services were deemed the most reliable and considered safe by 86 per cent of those who used them. Only one in 17 thought them unsafe. The NCC notes that reports of rail accidents may have partly accounted for British Rail's low safety rating and remarks that the reports of coach

accidents this year may affect confidence in coach travel. Two-thirds of bus passengers were satisfied with the services' reliability and more than half rated them at least fairly good, although the proportion was again lower in the London area.

Television rated poorly in the survey. More than half the respondents were unhappy about the quality of programmes and, among the services in the survey, the price of a television licence was felt to be the most unreasonable charge. The report says customers obviously felt they were not getting value for money, with more than three-fifths rating the licence fee unreasonable and 39 per cent calling it very unreasonable.

Television companies were not seen as looking after customers well, although independent companies scored slightly better than the BBC. By contrast with 32 per cent dissatisfaction with television, only 6 per

cent complained about radio. The proportion satisfied with the quality of radio programmes was double that for television.

A quarter of respondents were dissatisfied with the quality of their water supplies although there were regional variations, with the best results in Scotland, Yorkshire and Humberside, and the worst in England. Gas services received a high rating for safety but gas, electricity and water prices were considered less reasonable in 1990 than they had been in 1987.

Public opinion of telephone charges improved in the past three years but a larger proportion still consider telephone bills more unreasonable than those for water and fuel. The survey was conducted before the recent announcement of price increases for electricity and telephone services.

More than three-fifths thought postal charges at least fairly reasonable but a quarter thought prices unreasonable even

before the Post Office announced plans for price increases this autumn. More than two-thirds were pleased with the speed of postal deliveries but dissatisfaction was more marked in London.

More than a quarter of those questioned were not confident about the information they had when choosing a solicitor, a mortgage or the best way to borrow money. One in six were doubtful that they had sufficient information to make wise choices when buying food that would be safe. By contrast nearly half were very confident that they would know enough to make the right decision when buying a television or hi-fi set.

MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,938 members of the public between March 15 and 20.

Consumer Concerns 1990 (NCC, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1V 0DH; £5.50)

The Guinness trial

Parnes unaware share deal was illegal, QC says

THE Guinness trial was told yesterday that Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, had no reason to suspect he was acting illegally when he became involved in an allegedly illegal share support scheme to help Guinness win a £2.7 billion bid for Distillers.

The secrecy surrounding takeover tactics and the way in which his fees were worked out were similar to those during a previous Guinness takeover with which Mr Parnes had helped. Southwark Crown Court in south London was told.

Trying to pin the "badge of fraud" on Mr Parnes would have been like "asking you to pin the tail on a donkey after blindfolding you, twisting you round a dozen times and

facing you in the wrong direction," Colin Nicholls, QC, for Mr Parnes, said.

Mr Parnes, aged 45, Ernest Saunders, aged 55, former chairman of Guinness, Gerald Ronson, aged 50, head of Heron International, and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, a financier, deny 22 counts, including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. It is alleged they took part in the illegal support operation during the takeover of the Scottish drinks group in 1986.

At the start of his final speech to the jury on the 99th day of the trial, Mr Nicholls said confidentiality was part of the modern world and not "the badge of fraud" as the prosecution described it. Evidence was heard that busi-

ness within Guinness during the bid was conducted on a need to know basis. Mr Parnes, for example, was even known as "the Pram". Distillers was called "the Trojan horse" and Guinness "Orion".

Mr Nicholls said the £3.35 million fee Mr Parnes received for the advice and market intelligence he provided Guinness during the bid was proportionately similar to what he was paid for his work during Guinness's takeover of Bells in 1985.

There was a close relation in both cases between the fees and the money paid for the companies and bid costs. Another common feature was that both fees were paid against invoices from overseas companies direct into a Swiss bank. There was nothing sinister about that, he said. The prosecution was wrong to ignore the similarities as far as Mr Parnes was concerned between the two bids, particularly as the Bells takeover was never part of any criminal proceedings.

Mr Nicholls said the prosecution had never accused Mr Parnes, unlike the other three defendants, of telling lies. Mr Parnes had never denied his involvement in the share support operation, nor sought to minimise his role and blame others. "He did not know and did not believe he was doing anything wrong," Mr Nicholls said.

Mr Nicholls said the prosecution was wrong to say that just because Mr Parnes was a stockbroker he must have been familiar with the Companies Act and the takeover code. Mr Parnes, who did not go to university, began his stock market career at the bottom of the ladder as a "red button" or messenger, finally getting his licence to deal in 1968.

Basically an independent broker, lucky enough to have some rich and powerful clients, Mr Parnes was a tactical adviser, not a technical one. Mr Nicholls said Oliver Roux, a former Guinness director and the chief prosecution witness, had said Mr Parnes did not have any direct knowledge of the code and was not used to dealing with it. "So there, from the Crown's own witness, is direct evidence which would suggest to you that Anthony Parnes did not know that what was going on was wrong," he said.

The trial continues today.



Tourist trail: two Ukrainian children sightseeing in London yesterday. They are guests of the Ukrainian community in Nottingham, which asked 50 children from Pripjat, 10km from the ill-fated Chernobyl nuclear reactor, to stay for a month. The guests were evacuated from their homes after the disaster in 1986

11 British soldiers caught in republic

By BOB RODWELL IN BELFAST

ELEVEN British soldiers were found by Irish police in a field near Castleblaney, Co Monaghan, at about 9.30am yesterday after an army Lynx and an RAF Wessex helicopter made an incursion of Irish airspace and crossed into the republic from South Armagh. The helicopters had returned to the north by the time the Garda, alerted by calls from the public, reached the scene. Finding the 11 soldiers in hedgerows around the field, the police took names and units before escorting the soldiers to the border near by, which they crossed on foot.

Admitting the incursion had taken place, the army's Ulster headquarters at Lisburn said it was the result of a map-reading error and British forces had returned to the north immediately the mistake was realised. The helicopters had intruded into the republic's airspace by only about one kilometre, the army said, and had picked up members of a patrol. In the republic the Garda said a full report was being prepared for the Irish government.

For about two years there has been an unwritten agreement between the British and Irish authorities under which, in certain circumstances, military helicopters can cross the border for up to 3km without evoking diplomatic protests. The agreement does not extend to the use of ground troops and does not permit set-downs and pick-ups of the kind made yesterday.

● A skipper facing charges of gun-running for the IRA has been moved for his own safety from a jail holding terrorist prisoners. Adrian Hopkins, aged 51, of Delgany, Co Wicklow, was transferred from the top-security Portlaoise prison to Mountjoy jail, Dublin.

He was arrested on board the Eksund off the French coast in October 1987 when 150 tonnes of Libyan arms and explosives bound for the IRA were seized. IRA chiefs blame Mr Hopkins for sweeps by Irish security forces that have uncovered arms and ammunition dumps in the republic after four previous shipments.

After jumping bail in France Mr Hopkins was arrested by Irish police in Limerick last week and appeared at the anti-terrorism Special Criminal Court on Saturday night.

● A Scots Guard bandsman was knocked down and killed while manning a checkpoint near the centre of London-derry early yesterday. The RUC has ruled out deliberate terrorist intent and is treating the death as an accident.

Drummer Paul Brown, aged 21, from Inverness, leaves a widow and two children. Police said the driver had been questioned but not detained.

Ashdown condemns poll system

By PHILIP WEBSTER CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S political system is rotten, almost corrupt, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said last night.

Underlining his party's commitment to constitutional change, Mr Ashdown said the decline in participation in elections showed people were fed up with all politicians. The fair voting system backed by the Liberal Democrats gave power to the voters and not to the politicians.

In an interview on ITN's *News at Ten*, Mr Ashdown said that although his party had not progressed as fast as he would have liked and it had been a tough two years since the break-up of the alliance, Britain was back to three-party politics. The end of the Owenite faction had cleared the smoke. He admitted that his party was still afflicted by public doubt over what it stood for and it had to get its message across more clearly.

The leader of the Liberal Democrats said that he would be prepared to put up income tax, if it were the only way to provide Britain with investment, especially in education. He said, however, that much of the required money would come from the "environmental taxes" planned by his party.

Priory mass for 2,000 pilgrims



PILGRIMS joining in the singing at an open air mass yesterday in the ruins of the Augustinian Priory at Little Walsingham, Norfolk.

Two thousand Catholics, some of them barefoot, walked the "Holy Mile" to attend the service, the highlight of the fourth day of a five-day Catholic charismatic renewal conference (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The conference, a tradition not normally associated with Catholicism by those outside the church, was representative of an increasingly popular style of worship made possible by the Second Vatican Council in 1967. Before yesterday's mass, priests heard confession, or the "sacrament of revelation", standing fully robed, face-to-face with the congregation in the priory grounds.

The pilgrims to the conference held regular

meetings, prayer and healing groups in the 12 marquees on the edge of the Siffley river, a mile from Little Walsingham. It was attended by up to 3,000 people including 60 priests and a small Anglican contingent.

Worship was a combination of new and old, including song, dance and speaking in tongues with more traditional liturgies including the Magnificat and Hail Marys.

Myles Dempsey, conference chairman and head of the London-based lay Catholic Community of Christ the Prince of Peace, said: "We are different from the Pentecost. Charismatic renewal is something that has entered into all mainline churches and will find different expression according to different traditions. That is why it is different from house churches: we want to remain within the church."

Disquiet threatens Scottish Tory chief

By KERRY GILL

THE future of Michael Forsyth as chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party appeared to be in jeopardy last night as senior party members privately said that he must be ousted by the autumn.

Discontent has been growing among mainstream Tories over Mr Forsyth's hard-line style of leadership. This came to a head on Wednesday when Douglas Young, the Scottish party's most senior official, announced his resignation. Publicly, he said that his job as director of campaigns had finished, but it is believed that he became tired of slanging matches between supporters of Mr Forsyth and those of Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish secretary. A senior Tory last night said: "He was fed up. I heard he wanted 'out' as soon as he could find another job."

Mr Young's decision to leave after only eight months in the job increased dismay over the Tories' fortunes under Mr Forsyth, who appointed Mr Young. Recent opinion polls have shown the Tories at only 18 per cent in Scotland, compared to 24 per cent at the general election.

The source said: "The mainstream in the party wants Forsyth to go. It is a gut feeling among many people in the party who feel that under his leadership we would lose heavily at the next general election. He has spent the last year trying to destroy Mr Rifkind's career, orchestrating revolts and supporting Nicholas Ridley [while Mr Ridley was trade secretary]."

Noting a call by Bill Walker, vice-chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, for the Scottish secretary to stand aside for Mr Forsyth, the source said: "If that had not been a set-up, Walker would have been sacked."

Last night, the Scottish Tory Reform Group, sympathetic to the Rifkind camp, announced that it was to reinforce its position as a think-tank on Tory policies. Arthur Bell, its chairman, said that it would identify issues that concerned voters, such as job creation and housing. It was time to forget "loony, libertarian" distractions such as privatising prisons.

Code to conserve salmon and trout

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A VOLUNTARY code to promote more sporting conduct among game fishermen and to conserve depleted stocks of salmon and trout was launched yesterday at the opening of the annual Game Fair at Margam Park, South Wales.

James Ferguson, director of the Salmon and Trout Association, which drew up the code with 16 other game fishing organisations, said: "As many as 300,000 people now do nothing but game fishing and there is increasing pressure on space and stocks. The spring salmon run has deteriorated enormously over the past ten years. Sea trout stocks have completely collapsed in western Ireland and seriously declined in western Scotland."

The code, which covers fishing for salmon, trout, sea trout, grayling and char, urges every angler to accept blank days as part of the experience of fishing. "There is more to fishing than catching fish," it says. Initially, 50,000 copies of the code will be distributed to country hotels, fishing clubs and organisations. A print-run of 500,000 is planned.

Fishery owners and managers are urged to set limits on the number and size of fish that can be caught, to prohibit bait or methods of fishing that are unnecessarily damaging to fish stocks or to the

interest of other anglers or are seen locally to be unsporting, and to discourage the sale of rod-caught fish.

Anglers are exhorted to be watchdogs of the water and its environment. Fish caught for food, the code says, should be promptly and efficiently dispatched. All other fish should be released as quickly as possible and "never thrown back into the water but held facing upstream in running water until they swim free". Barbless hooks are recommended for catch and release fishing.

In a foreword, Lord Home of the Hirsel says "angling is all about good manners". The code carries on its cover a quotation from Isaac Walton's *The Compleat Angler*: "Doubt not therefore, Sir, but that Angling is an Art, and an Art worth your learning: the question is rather, whether you are capable of learning it?"

Rodney Swarbrick, president of the Country Landowners' Association, which organises the three-day Game Fair, urged government planners not to be shy of allowing industry to develop in the countryside. Wales offered a good example of "where two businesses, agriculture and industry, have united to provide income and employment for the local community," Mr Swarbrick said.

IRA bomb gave Gow no chance, inquest is told

By MARK SOULSTER

THE inquest into the death of Ian Gow, the Conservative MP and close friend of the prime minister, was opened and adjourned yesterday, as detectives searching for his IRA killers appealed for information about a second car seen speeding from the scene early on Monday.

At the inquest in Eastbourne, East Sussex, the coroner was told by the family physician, Dr David Hamraty, that he was called to the MP's home and found him dead in the wreckage of his car.

Dr Hamraty, of Hailsham, East Sussex, said that Mr Gow would not have survived the IRA attack even if it had happened in a hospital entrance. He later identified Mr Gow's body formally. The coroner's officer said that the cause of death was severe blast injuries.

Detective Chief Inspector Alan Snelling said that Mr Gow had driven out of the garage and was manoeuvring in the driveway when an explosive device detonated.

David Wadman, the coroner, said that in the light of the evidence and the police criminal investigation he would adjourn the inquest to a date to be fixed. Mr Gow's funeral is expected to take place on Wednesday at St Saviour's and St Peter's Church, Eastbourne.

As police revealed yesterday that they had received 1,200 calls from the public, Detective Chief Superintendent Roger Hills said they were looking for a light blue Ford Sierra containing two men aged about 30 which was driven at such speed that it almost forced another motorist on to the verge of Hankham Hall Road at 7.30am. It was travelling south away from Mr Gow's home at The Dog House in Hankham, six miles from Eastbourne.

The driver, clean shaven with short dark hair and heavy build, was wearing a dark jacket. The second man, of smaller build, had short dark hair, sunglasses and dark clothing.

Police are still trying to trace another red Sierra seen in the village shortly before the bomb exploded.

Magistrates first to hear child cases

COURT cases involving child care will be heard by magistrates, except where the issues are exceptionally complex or important or if there is an urgent need for clarification from a higher court, Lord MacKay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

The starting point for most care cases, involving local authorities or the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will be the magistrates' court, he said.

Magistrates may transfer cases to the planned network of family hearing centres, or to the High Court, where the arguments are of "exceptional complexity, importance or gravity", where it is appropriate for the case to be heard in a higher court, or where there is a particular need for an early judgment.

Pollution fears

Scientists are calling for a study of children in Cornwall to determine whether they suffered mentally as a result of one of Britain's worst water pollution incidents, according to a report in today's issue of *The Times Educational Supplement*. About 40 adults have complained of short-term memory loss after the incident at Camelford two years ago when aluminium sulphate entered the water supply.

Bail for youth

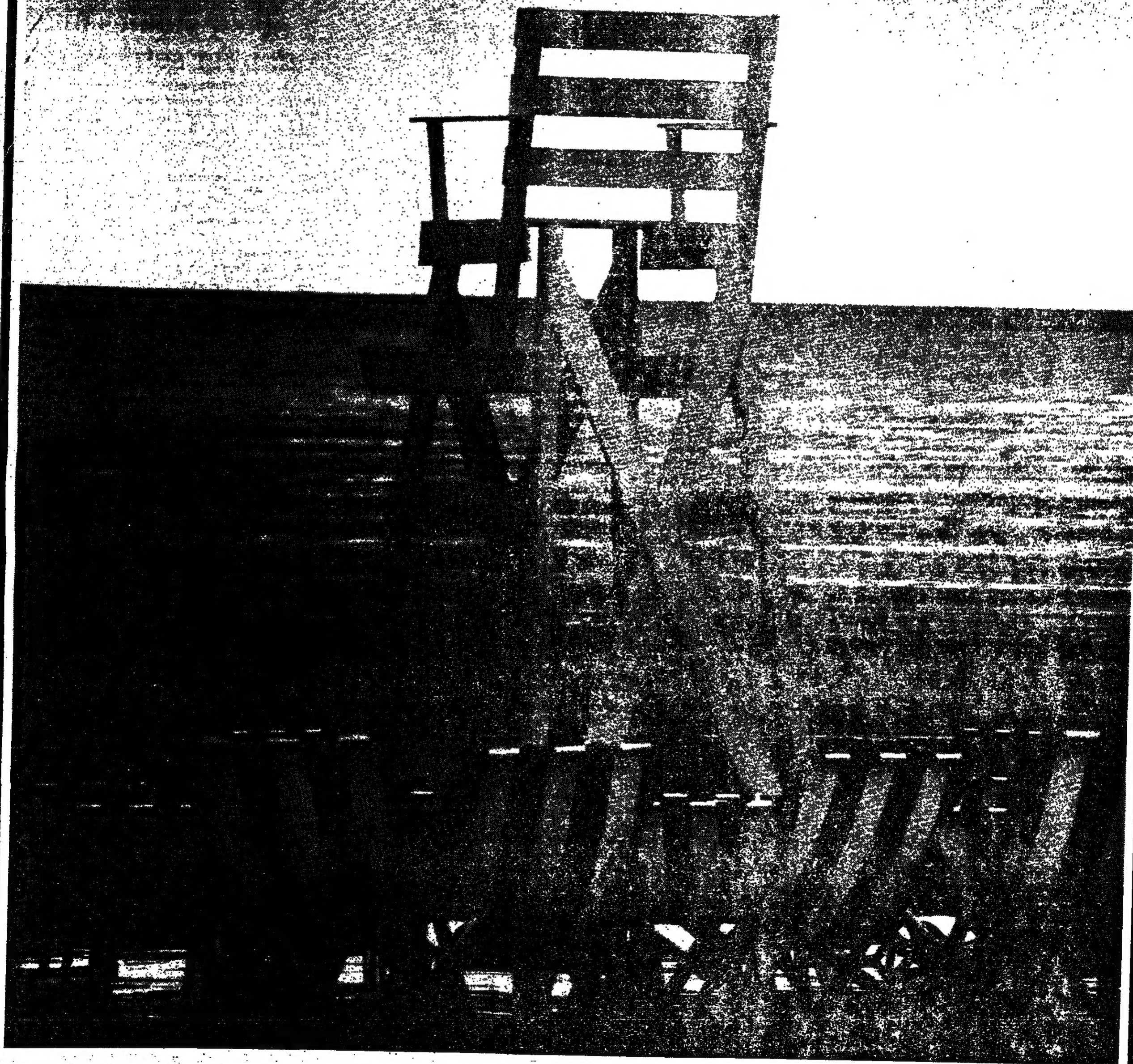
A youth aged 16 who has spent six weeks in custody accused of the murder of a boy aged 14, was granted bail yesterday after claims of a forensic mistake by police. His lawyer told Sunderland juvenile court that the evidence against him was nine months older than the case. The youth was arrested when police claimed to have found on a wall a blood-stained fingerprint linking him to the death.

Cricket fines

Andrew Williams and Sean Ackland, Glamorgan cricket fans aged 24 and neighbours in Shirley Road, Cardiff, were each fined £150 at Marylebone yesterday for threatening and disorderly behaviour at Lord's on Wednesday at the NatWest Trophy quarter final match. The magistrate, Mr Geoffrey Noel, said: "Drinking beer or anything like that in this hot weather is likely to damage your health permanently."

IRA bomb
gave Gov
no chance
inquest
is told

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MPs criticise costing for state property development

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE system of estimating costs for redeveloping and modernising government property was criticised yesterday in a report showing multi-million pound increases in spending on several projects.

A group of MPs urged the government's Property Services Agency (PSA) to change the method of producing figures so that a distinction was made between outline costs and properly costed estimates.

The Commons environment committee called for the agency to provide greater detail in its costings, and, after being told of the reasons for part of the extra costs for renovation work at Marlborough House, London, said: "It is clear that the estimating procedure is still far from foolproof".

The committee is highly critical of the delay in completing the renovation of one building that has prevented a series of moves by government bodies and left the education department of King's

College London without a proper home and facing serious difficulties at the start of the academic year this autumn.

The MPs' report said: "The PSA put the failure to complete the sale down to 'legal difficulties', implying that these were raised by the purchasers. It was only under pressure that witnesses admitted that the purchasers were the victims of the PSA's failures and stand to meet a loss thereby. This is scarcely conscionable."

The report gives details of big projects showing an increase in costs, including two, the development of Richmond Yard, Whitehall, to provide offices for the health and social security departments, and renovating the old War Office, in which estimated costs have risen by 100 per cent.

The initial estimate of £22 million for Richmond Yard, based on an outline design, has now risen to an estimated cost of £44 million, which the PSA blamed largely on changes made before the award of the main contract, plus £7 million due to inflation.

Work on fire precautions at government offices in Great George Street, Whitehall, show an 80 per cent increase from £1.3 million in 1989-90 to £2.4 million in 1990-1. The PSA defended its failure to cost the project correctly by saying that the original estimate had been produced at the "outline stage" and that work during design had shown that more needed to be included in the specification.

The MPs also criticised the way in which estimates for renovation of the centre block of Marlborough House had been prepared. The costs had risen from £7 million to £10 million, of which £360,000 was due to changes in "resource requirements and unforeseen circumstances". They said that a significant part of the extra cost was due to the omission of site supervision from the estimate, and added: "We are at a loss to understand how such an obvious error could have been made."

Environment committee report on PSA services and DoE property holdings: main estimates, 1990-1991 (Stationery Office, £7.85)

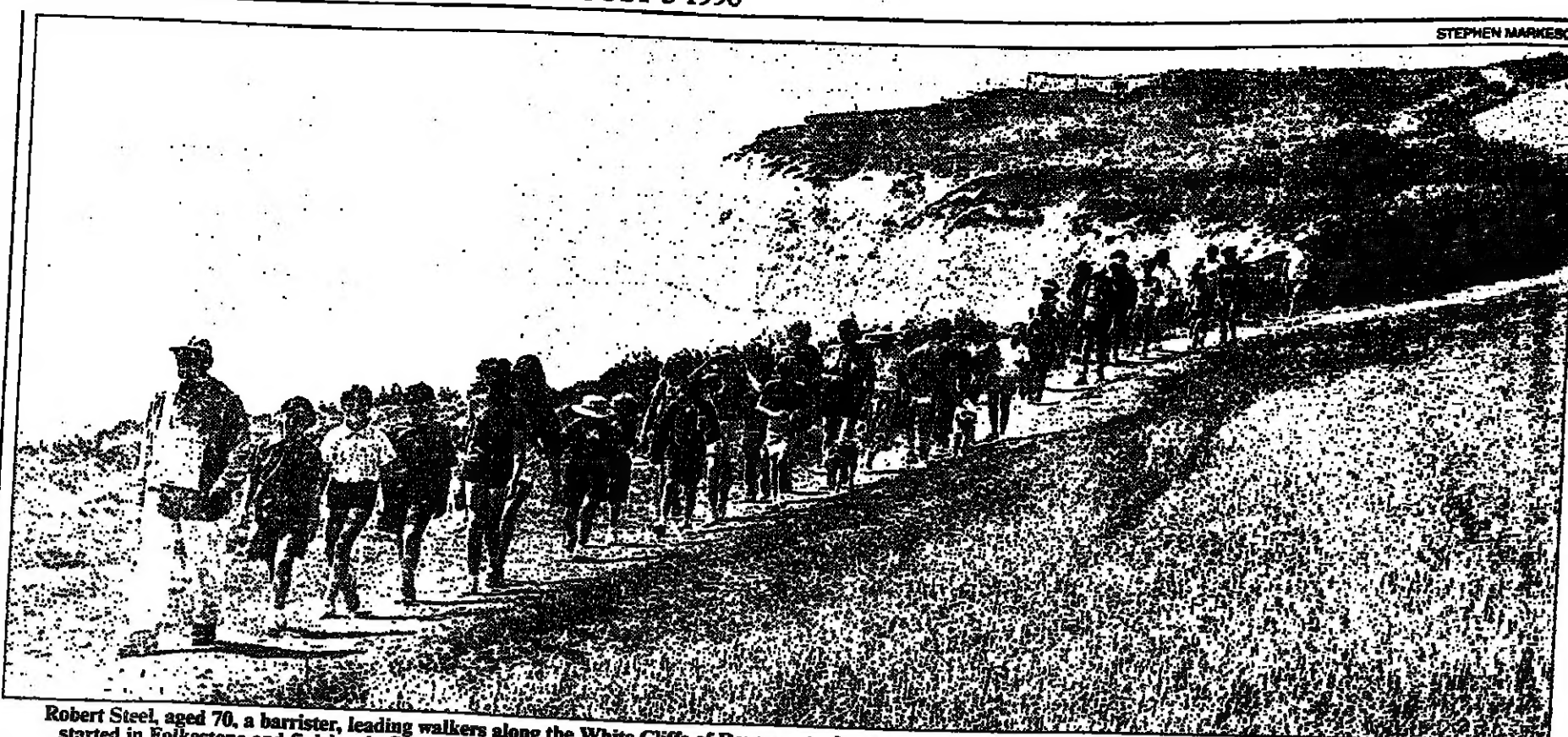
Fine follows demolition of coach house

A PROPERTY developer who bulldozed an old coach house to build a new three-bedroomed property was fined £10,000 yesterday.

Michael Durant, aged 34, demolished the 19th century building in a conservation area at Barnet, Hertfordshire, without council permission, a month after he had bought it for £360,000.

Months later he offered to build a replica and the plans were approved. Then he tried to persuade councillors to let him build a new house instead. Knightsbridge Crown Court, west London, was told yesterday.

Mr Durant said in a statement read in court, that the building was falling apart. Mr Michael Bedford, for the defence, said that Durant, who pleaded guilty, did not realise that he could not knock it down without permission.



Robert Steel, aged 70, a barrister, leading walkers along the White Cliffs of Dover yesterday, the 95th day of his 2,000-mile walk along the coast of Britain, which started in Folkestone and finishes in Sandwich. He aims to raise funds for the National Trust's Enterprise Neptune, to protect 900 miles of unspoilt coastline.

Tourism strains prompt national trail status for Hadrian's Wall

By RONALD FAUX

HADRIAN'S Wall is to become a national trail in a project that will complement the government's attempt to relieve the pressure of tourism on Britain's historic monuments and beauty spots. Earlier this week, the government announced the setting up of a task force to tackle the issue.

Although the wall that marked the northern boundary of the Roman Empire is profoundly historic and an environmental jewel, interest is concentrated on a few famous stretches that are consequently under severe pressure, according to Judith Moore, the project officer. "They are grossly overcrowded. What we want to do," she said, "is link the line of sites in one continuous walk of 80 Roman miles from the Tyne to the Solway, bringing in scores of other points of interest that tend to be overlooked."

Only ten miles of Hadrian's once-impregnable fortification remain almost intact, the rest having been overwhelmed by a millennium of building development, agriculture and erosion by weather. It is no longer possible to follow the exact line of the original wall as several front parlours

would have to be invaded and General Wade's military road, now the B6318, would have to be returned to cobbles.

Miss Moore has walked hundreds of miles in her exploration of the best pathway. Some of it follows established rights of way or crosses national park land, but she has also negotiated with about 30 owners on the 40 miles of private land along the way.

The proposed route will this week be considered by the Countryside Commission, which launched the project and will finance the way-marks, footbridges, sign posts and stiles

needed along Hadrian's Way. An unknown number of enthusiasts "walk the wall" from coast to coast every year, trespassing on private land and risking fast traffic on General Wade's road.

"We are not foisting this on people," Miss Moore said. "When the route has been put out for consultation and is finally approved, it will be a corridor of much wider interest. It will be an ideal week's walking of ten miles a day with a variety of scenery surprising to anyone who thinks that a Roman wall is no more than a straight line across empty moorland."

Rents 'rising faster than incomes'

RENTS for housing association tenants are increasing much faster than incomes, making the rents less affordable, the National Federation of Housing Associations says in its quarterly bulletin published today (Christopher Warman writes).

The federation says the decline in affordability has been particularly marked since the assured tenancy provisions of the 1988 Housing Act for new lettings took effect in January last year. Rents for new lettings in January last year accounted for 18 per cent of the

average net weekly household income of housing association tenants, where at least one person was in work. By March this year the proportion had increased to 22.5 per cent while the equivalent for assured lettings only was 24 per cent, well above the federation's guideline of 20 per cent.

Average rents for new lettings have increased at three times the retail price index since the first quarter of 1988. During that period incomes of new tenants have increased less than average earnings.

Labour studies union plan for settling pay

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock and senior Labour party advisers are studying a radical plan which could rid Britain of the image of a country perpetually in the throes of damaging wage negotiations.

If it succeeds, all big settlements in the private and public sector would be settled within three months, avoiding the present trend of leapfrogging and "ratcheting up" wage demands in the face of inflation and previous settlements.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, and Alan Tiffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication

Workers, emphasised yesterday that their initiative was not an attempt to resurrect an incomes policy. They were equally adamant that they were not seeking a special "sweetheart" arrangement with the Labour party if it won the next election. Mr Tiffin said: "Beer and sandwiches at No 10 is not on the agenda."

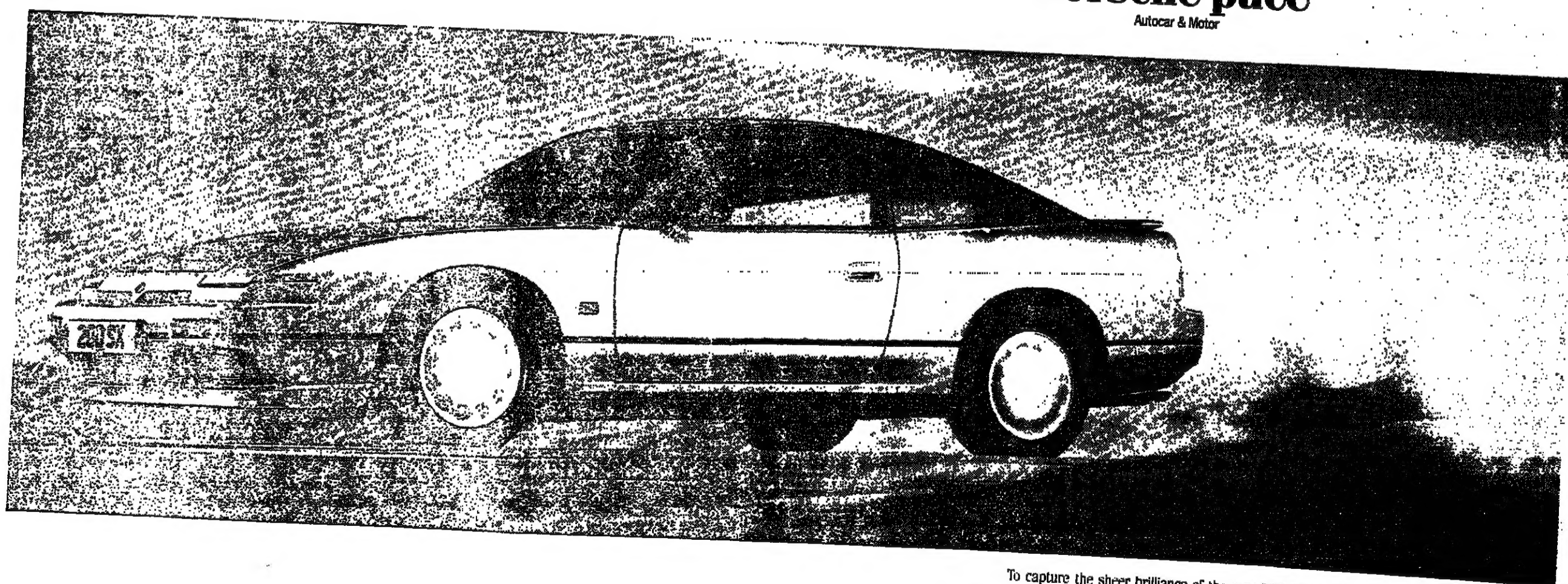
Under the union plan, the main negotiations on pay and conditions would be concentrated in the first three months of the year after a public discussion of the country's economic prospects between the government, the CBI and the TUC. The discussion, the union leaders suggest, could be launched by the publication of the government's autumn statement on the economy.

Their report, *A New Agenda - Bargaining for Prosperity in the 1990s*, argues that under the system pay settlements would be more likely to fall within a range that is acceptable as consistent with national needs.

It adds: "There would be less likelihood of the going rate being forced upwards by successive settlements progressively raising the minimum acceptable figure."

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Poison

The police have been alerted to a possible poisoning of a child in a school in the north of London. The child, who is now in hospital, is believed to have been poisoned by a substance found in a school bag.

Woman crush

A woman has been crushed to death by a car in a parking lot in the north of London. The car was parked in a narrow space and the woman was standing next to it when it moved forward.

Poll tax cut

The government has announced a cut in the poll tax for low-income households. The cut is expected to save households up to £100 a year.

Rice to divor

A couple has been divorced after a long and bitter battle in court. The couple had been married for 20 years and had three children.

Mosaic dama

A woman has been found dead in a park in the north of London. The woman was found lying on a bench and was believed to have been killed by a man who was later arrested.

فريق العمل

Universities given £9m to provide housing aid

By TOM GILES

THE government is to provide universities with more than £9 million next year for access funds to help students most affected by the loss of welfare and housing benefits under the new social security bill.

Children's language ability a 'disaster'

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

CHILDREN'S inability to speak a foreign language when they leave school is a disaster and the compulsory lessons in the national curriculum will not improve matters, a teachers' leader said yesterday.

Peter Dawson, general secretary of the 40,000-member Professional Association of Teachers, said: "The linguistic incompetence of most children on leaving school is a disaster of monumental proportions. It bears directly upon the whole question of the degree of influence the next generation will be able to exert in Europe."

"Conversation in a foreign language should be taught to all children from the day they start school at five. They will pick up such a language the way they pick up English — by hearing it and speaking it."

Mr Dawson said that teaching methods were failing to deal with the problem, which would not be helped by the introduction of a compulsory modern language for children aged 11 to 16.

"The teaching of foreign languages as an academic discipline at secondary level is utterly and totally irrelevant to the needs of the great majority of young people of the United Kingdom in the European era. GCSE French and German for those with a special talent for languages will not equip this country for its European future," he told the association's annual conference in Nottingham.

"All foreign language inspectors and advisers should be withdrawn from their posts and allocated to groups of primary schools to provide conversation classes. French and German assistants should be recruited to primary schools."

"The BBC should be encouraged and resourced to produce children's radio and television programmes in foreign languages. I don't mean teaching programmes. I mean ordinary children's radio and television in French and German," Mr Dawson said.

British immigration rules are being relaxed after Alan Howarth, a junior education minister, complained to the Home Office that delays in allowing foreign teachers to enter the country could have "unfortunate and potentially very embarrassing" consequences for the government. There are about 100 applications from foreign teachers outstanding.

next academic year. The funds are also designed to offer financial incentives for poorer students to enter further or higher education.

Under the spending allocation announced by the Universities Funding Council, the 51 British universities will receive £5.2 million to create a fund for undergraduates on full-time and sandwich courses. A further £4.28 million will be reserved for full-time postgraduates.

The funding council said that it had based its allocation on the number of students, the proportion living in private accommodation and the cost of living in the area. The decisions were taken in consultation with the universities' committee of vice-chancellors and principals.

London university will, for example, receive just under £2 million to cater for about 44,640 students, most of whom live in high-cost housing areas. Salford, on the other hand, has been allotted £63,000 for 4,700 students.

Although universities will be able to decide how much to pay each eligible student, the scheme was criticised by student leaders, teachers' unions and university administrators yesterday for its complexity and the size of funds available.

The National Union of Students said: "The amount of money will be inadequate to cover students' rising costs and their losses in terms of welfare benefit. The old system compensated them according to their need and was an entitlement. Under the access fund, students will have to go cap in hand to prove their relative hardship in competition with their fellows."

Don Carleton, information officer for Bristol University, said that the £327,000 access fund it had been allocated would be insufficient for the needs of 8,000 students who were already having to meet an average private-sector rent of £37 a week. Although students can lodge an appeal with their university if they feel their payment is insufficient, the Association of University Teachers said the appeals procedure would place too great a burden on staff.

"The administrative complexity of these funds has been underestimated by the government. Universities are caught on a see-saw of weighing up cost-efficiency and fairness. It will require an enormous amount of bureaucracy to deal out a small amount of money."

A spokesman for the education and science department said the costs of organising the funds had been taken into account when the allowances were set for each university.

He said: "The total access fund will be more than adequate in offsetting the impact of loss of benefit and will target those who are most in need."

The £9.48 million allocation to universities is part of a £25 million government package to further and higher education. The Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council announced an £8.5 million fund last week for students at its institutions. The remainder is expected to be awarded to further education colleges next week.



Clean-up climb: Andy Butterworth, of the Bradford Graffiti Removal Unit, swings into action to remove an eyesore from the cliffs at Valley Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire. He had to call in the Headwall climbing team to help.

Carey tells of conversion and his early difficulties

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE first commandment given to the newly chosen Archbishop of Canterbury on his conversion to Christianity was to stand on a soap box and preach in front of his parents' house in Dagenham, Essex. His local vicar then commanded him to learn whole chapters of the gospel by heart.

Dr George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, described his "quite dramatic" conversion in an interview published today. He told John Martin, editor of *The Church of England Newspaper*, that within a year the rest of his family had an active faith.

The Archbishop of Canterbury designate also answered criticisms from some conservative evangelicals that he had abandoned his roots. He insisted that his views had been broad since he was a teenager. "I have always been a gospel-centred person but I could never be a narrow person," he said. "I have never been a party person. I would want to say that the people who have the highest doctrine of scripture, namely the evangelicals, often have the lowest standard of interpretation."

"Too many evangelicals do not treat the Bible with the respect that the liberals do. They jump about the Bible, they have blessed thought on the Bible. They do not analyse it in the depth that it calls for. I believe that experience is in danger of replacing apologetics, particularly in the charismatic part of the church."

Dr Carey, an Arsenal supporter, used a football analogy to describe the role of bishops, they were the "sweepers" that got past everyone else. He described the difficulties he encountered with his early faith. "I have always been a person who has to think things out so the intellectual side of faith is very important to me. Having been brought up in the war years, seeing people blown up, I had to wrestle with questions like, is there a God and how do I know him?" Dr Carey said he had never dreamed he would move in an academic direction. "I always thought I would be a parish minister and would be happy just doing that."

He revealed a taste for 1970s music such as Supertramp and Dire Straits, that his favourite poet was T. S. Eliot, his favourite theologians were Urs Balthazar, Karl Rahner and Griffith Thomas, and his favourite hymn was "O Praise thee the Lord".

Letters, page 11

Woman died after she was attacked by a cat

AN ELDERLY woman who lived in fear of her next-door neighbour's tomcat died from a blood clot after the animal attacked her (Michael Horsnell writes).

A coroner's inquest was told yesterday that May Paul, aged 80, suffered more than 20 puncture marks to her arms and legs on June 16 after the black and white cat chased her through her home in Bath. Mrs Paul, a widow, died three weeks later in hospital.

Her son Anthony Paul, an electrical engineer from Bath, told the court how she had lived in fear of the animal,

locking windows and doors even in summer, after an initial attack three years ago. "She had been extremely frightened of the cat and she opened the back door that morning and found it sitting there waiting for her. It jumped straight at her."

The cat's owners Martin and Alison Burford had it destroyed after Mrs Paul staggered to their home.

Donald Hawkins, the Avon coroner, said an unbroken chain of events led from the attack to Mrs Paul's death. He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

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Poisoner dies in jail

The poisoner Graham Young has died in prison, the Home Office said yesterday. Young, aged 42, was found unconscious in his cell at Parkhurst prison on the Isle of Wight on Wednesday.

Young's case provoked uproar in 1972 when he was jailed for life for murdering two workmates by poisoning them while on conditional release from Broadmoor. He was also convicted of two attempted murders. Young had been released four months earlier after being sent to Broadmoor at the age of 14 for poisoning his father, sister and a friend. They all survived.

Woman crushed

Police are waiting to interview a schoolboy who accidentally crushed his mother to death with the family car. Linda Salisbury, aged 41, suffered fatal injuries in accident outside her home in Radcliffe, Greater Manchester.

Poll tax cut

The Tory-controlled Derby city council has set a community charge of £399 after the Labour-controlled Derbyshire county council announced spending cuts of £45 million. That means poll tax payers will each be £59 better off.

Rice to divorce

The 16-year marriage of Tim Rice, the composer and lyricist, and his wife, Jane, is to end. Their names appear on the latest list of "quickie" divorce matters scheduled to be heard in the London.

Mosaic damaged

A 2,000-year-old Roman mosaic pavement, uncovered by archaeologists near Market Harborough, Leicestershire, has been hacked to pieces by vandals during the night.

Armed siege

A man aged 27 was arrested yesterday after a four-hour siege in which he threatened to shoot himself. Officers surrounded a flat in Willesden, north London, after a former girl friend said he was armed.

Boxer in court

Alan Minter, aged 38, the former world middleweight boxing champion, elected to go for trial on an assault charge when he appeared briefly in court at Newmarket yesterday. He was remanded on unconditional bail for five weeks for commitment to Bury St Edmunds Crown Court.

Teenagers killed

Two disabled teenagers were killed and another two seriously hurt after their minibus collided head-on with an articulated lorry in Nottingham yesterday afternoon.

Water hotline

A scheme by the southwest region of the National Rivers Authority has received almost 300 calls about pollution since a telephone hotline was switched on six months ago.

Hunt launches £14m scheme to improve Welsh environment

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

The Welsh environment is to be improved in a £14 million campaign covering towns, villages and landscapes throughout the principality. The scheme, announced yesterday, will take four years and involve more than 300 projects.

David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, said the campaign was probably the most sustained drive anywhere in Europe to raise the quality of the environment.

The programme of 327 schemes, costing £14.4 million, is a partnership between Welsh local authorities and the Welsh Development Agency, whose land reclamation department already spends £15 million a year on reducing industrial dereliction. Gwyn Jones, chairman of the development agency, said yesterday: "The success that Wales has achieved economically over the past few years must be matched with comparable progress in improving the environment in which we live and work. This programme will affect directly the quality of life in Wales and renew local pride in very many communities."

The campaign will see park-

land walks replace industrial wasteland and trees used to screen factories. Nature reserves will be laid out, castles groynted and pressure taken off ancient town centres through the introduction of pedestrian-only streets.

Sixty schemes have been earmarked for mid-Glamorgan as part of a drive to improve the environment of the industrial south. A riverside parkway is to be built beside the Rhondda. Nearly £500,000 will be spent on improving the approaches to Ebbw Vale, which is the site for the 1992 National Garden Festival. Building frontages are to be improved in the isolated towns of mid-Wales, such as Llandovery and Llandeilo. In the agricultural north, Denbigh's old streets are to be renovated. The surroundings of Haverfordwest Castle and Camarthen Castle are to be enhanced and the inner harbour at Aberaeron is to be developed.

Mr Hunt, speaking in Cardiff, said that his scheme was designed to improve the image of Wales to home and overseas investors, and to secure a better quality of life.

work and leisure. He said: "I am totally committed to the defeat of decay and dereliction and restoring those parts of Wales to their former glory."

In Scotland, Edinburgh council announced that it is to compile a computerised database on the estimated 250,000 trees in public ownership in the city. Forestry and landscape students are to record the vital statistics of the trees, such as species and health.

The scheme is part of the Edinburgh Urban Forestry Project to revolutionise the management of trees and to allow easier planning of maintenance. Investigators are to start with those trees on the streets of the city and will later focus on parks and woodland areas. The council hopes to cover housing estates and schools next year.

Robert Cairns, chairman of the council's planning committee, said: "This is an essential step in the urban forestry programme, which it is hoped will eventually include a major increase in the number of trees and the production of valuable timber and timber products from trees that need to be felled."



Peter Bonsall, centre, of Islington's parks department, and a police officer face to face with protesters yesterday

Heart disease linked to foetal growth

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY people may be born at increased risk of a heart attack or stroke later in life because of impaired development in the womb, according to research published today.

Scientists have studied wartime records of births in a Lancashire hospital and their medical histories as adults to establish for the first time a direct link between reduced blood flow in the foetus and high blood pressure later in life. The findings, reported in the *British Medical Journal*, emerged from studies of hundreds of people whose births were recorded in detail at Sharoe Green Hospital, Preston, between 1935 and 1943.

The records included each mother's pelvic measurements and previous pregnancies, and each baby's birthweight, placental weight, head size and length.

Researchers tracked down from the records 449 men and women, who were willing to co-operate in the project. David Barker and his colleagues from a medical research council unit at Southampton university found that those who now have high blood pressure, a risk factor in heart disease and stroke, had impaired foetal growth.

Professor Barker's team discovered that the larger the placenta the more likely there would be disproportion between the baby's body length and head circumference. This disproportionate growth was consistent with diversion of blood away from the body of the foetus to its brain.

Redistribution of blood flow to favour the brain is known to occur in a foetus exposed to harmful influences, such as lack of oxygen. "Reduced blood flow to the trunk, induced in a foetus that is small in relation to its placenta, could have irreversible consequences, perhaps by influencing arterial growth," Professor Barker says in the journal. "These findings show for the first time that the intrauterine environment has an important effect on blood pressure in adults."

The usual explanation for differences in blood pressure is that they depend on factors such as obesity, alcohol consumption, salt intake and other environmental influences during adult life. The Southampton team's conclusion that high blood pressure and its associated risks of heart disease and stroke are predicted by a combination of placental weight and birth weight may cause a revision of the orthodox view.

"Mothers' blood pressures are related to those of their children and it could be argued that placental weight is linked to adult blood pressure through a genetic mechanism that determines both the blood pressure of the child and the growth of the placenta," the researchers say.

Foetal size is strongly linked with the mother's stature and pelvic size, which in turn are related to her nutrition in childhood. "The nutrition of girls may therefore be linked to blood pressure levels in the next generation."

By improving the physique and nutrition of girls and women today blood pressure levels in the children they eventually bear could be lowered, the researchers suggest.

● Evidence that snoring can increase the risks of a heart attack is published in *The Lancet* today by doctors in Western Australia. Heavy snoring can interrupt breathing and trigger an attack in men with heart disease.

Protesters conquer chestnut fellers

By ROBIN YOUNG

PROTESTERS yesterday succeeded, at least temporarily, in saving their spreading chestnut tree. The tree, in St Paul's Shrubbery, Islington, north London, was condemned last month by the Court of Appeal because a resident complained that it was invading his property and pushing over his garden wall.

When workers from Islington borough council arrived to cut it down, however, they found half a dozen members of Friends of the Earth sitting in the tree. About 60 supporters covered the tree with banners and placards, one of which read: "Don't be bonkers, save the conkers".

Children were painting a "tree of life" picture in the chestnut's shade, a piper played a lament and Richard Adams, the author of *Water-Ship Down*, who lived in St Paul's Place for 25 years, sent a message of support.

When police were called, Chief Inspector Malcolm Hines said: "I don't want anybody to get hurt and I certainly won't be sending any policemen up the tree." The tree surgeons appointed to fell the tree then withdrew.

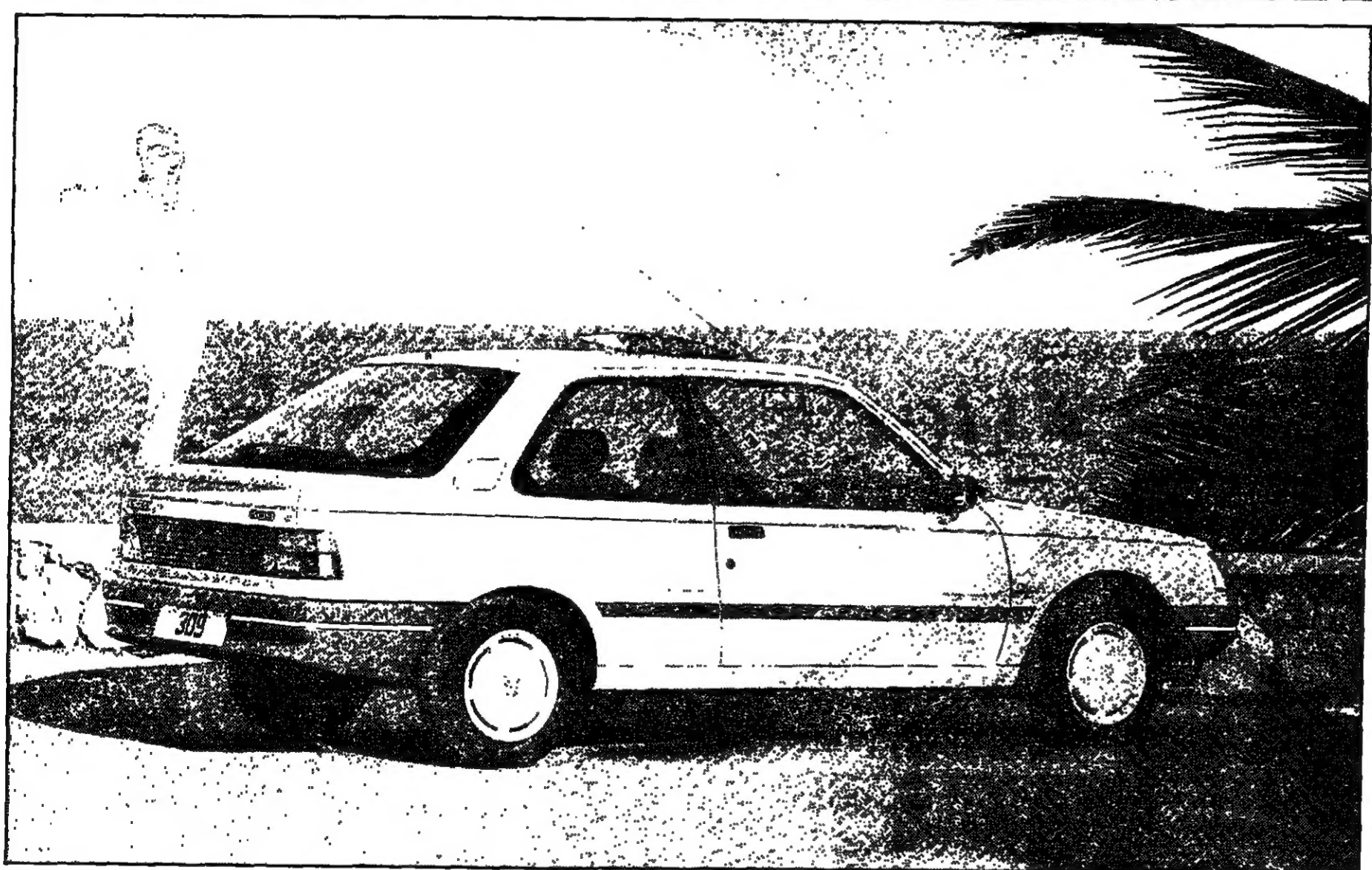
Islington council, whose pleas that the 150-year-old tree be preserved were rejected by the Court of Appeal a month ago, has returned to court to seek an extension to the 28 days allowed for the tree's removal. The extension expired last night.

The order was won after a 13-year dispute by Peter Elliott, of St Paul's Place, who said the tree was damaging his property. He has ignored petitions and was not answering his door yesterday.

Neil Mitchell, of Islington Friends of the Earth, said: "We may have won the battle but the war continues. It is a small victory for the environment but we know the council could come back at any time."

Peter Bonsall, head of Islington council's parks department, said: "We will have to cut the tree down in the end. The law is the law."

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SET THE PACE, GET THE LOOK

Norway steps up nuclear protest

From TONY SAMSTAG IN OSLO

THE Norwegian government has intensified its international campaign against British nuclear waste reprocessing at Dounreay in Scotland. Kristin Hille Valle, the environment minister, has taken the unusual step of writing to counterparts in the European Community to enlist their support.

Norway has spearheaded opposition to any expansion of the nuclear plant, arguing that the likelihood of accidents posed unacceptably high risks of radioactive contamination. Norwegian scientists say that a Chernobyl-style accident at Dounreay, just 250 miles from their coastline, would affect Norway in much the same way as the explosion of a nuclear device over Britain, while even a minor accident could be a catastrophe for North Sea fisheries.

As recently as May, Mrs Hille Valle, alarmed by proposals to store radioactive waste in the bed of the North Sea, wrote to her British counterpart, Chris Patten, reminding him that it was her

duty to protest and warning him that her colleagues in Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland had been alerted.

Dounreay is again on the agenda of the Nordic council and of the Paris commission. The issue is potentially more serious even than acid rain as a threat to relations between Britain and the Nordic countries. Two years ago, more than 300,000 people, about 7.5 per cent of the Norwegian population, signed a petition deploring plans for expansion at Dounreay. Most of the signatures were delivered to Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Britain then announced that plans for expansion at Dounreay were to be dropped, a decision — since reversed, apparently — that brought a rare public statement of approval from the Norwegians. The Danish Faeroe Islands have also been active in the campaign. There have been suggestions that the Orkneys and Shetlands should secede from Britain and re-establish ancient ties with the Nordic states in protest over the nuclear issue.

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مكتبة

Blueprint for cuts in US forces revealed

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE blueprint of a radically revised military strategy for the United States in the post-Cold War era has been presented to President Bush by Richard Cheney, the defence secretary.

It is based on the assumption that it would take Moscow up to two years to mount an invasion of the West once its troops have been withdrawn from Eastern Europe, instead of the two weeks that the US counted on at the height of East-West tension.

It involves a reduction of about 500,000 in America's present active-service military strength of 2.1 million by the mid-1990s, and a fundamental reorganisation of the military into four basic components: an Atlantic force, a Pacific force, a rapidly deployable contingency force and a strategic force of long-range nuclear weapons.

The present concentration on the defence of Western Europe would give way to a more balanced global strategy. The blueprint does not explicitly identify the cuts that would be possible in Europe after a complete Soviet withdrawal, but Pentagon officials are said to be considering plans to retain only about 100,000 to 120,000 troops there. At present there are just

over 300,000, with super-power talks aiming for a ceiling of 225,000.

The blueprint is still being refined and has yet to be approved by Mr Bush, though he is said to view it favourably, but its details were leaked to *The New York Times* yesterday in what may have been an attempt by the Pentagon to dissuade Congress from making too deep cuts in the 1991 defence budget.

Congressmen and senators have been sharply critical of the Pentagon for failing to produce a new strategy reflecting changed world circumstances and have been using that failure as a pretext for imposing their own sweeping cuts on the spending. The Pentagon would be able to use this blueprint as a bottom line. Aspects of the proposals are also said to be arousing strong opposition from individual service chiefs fighting to protect their patches.

The blueprint is based on months of work by General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and Paul Wolfowitz, the under-secretary of defence for policy, and represents the first comprehensive effort to adapt the US military to world circumstances altered by the collapse of communism.

It envisages an Atlantic force capable of responding to a Soviet attack against Western Europe or to aggression in the Gulf region. This would reportedly consist of five active army divisions, two in Europe, plus six reserve army divisions and two partially staffed "reconstitutable" divisions that could be hastily assembled at times of tension.

It would have three or four tactical fighter wings based in Europe, two more active wings in the United States, plus a reserve force equivalent to nine full wings. There would be six aircraft carrier groups, with one deployed in the Mediterranean. A 2,400-strong Marine force would be on station in Europe, with two active and one reserve Marine brigades in the US.

The primarily maritime Pacific force, designed to defend South Korea, Japan and other Asian allies, would centre on six aircraft carrier groups, one based in Japan, three or four tactical fighter wings based in the Pacific, an army division in South Korea backed up by another in Hawaii or Alaska, and four Marine expeditionary brigades, one in Japan, one in Hawaii and two in the United States.

The contingency force, designed for rapid intervention in Third World trouble spots, would consist of five divisions, seven fighter wings and specially trained counter-terrorist forces.

Senior air force officials say they need more than the suggested 25 or so active and reserve air wings. They presently have 36. The army is said to be reconciled to losing six of its 18 divisions. General Powell has also suggested reducing the number of aircraft carriers from 14 to 11 but the navy insists it needs at least 12.

Philippines rebels free aid workers

Silay - A kidnapped American Peace Corps volunteer and a Japanese aid worker were freed by communist guerrillas in the central Philippines yesterday after being held captive for about two months. Timothy Swanson, and Fumio Mizuno were released separately by the New People's Army during a three-day truce on the central island of Negros.

"I am happy it's over. I'm OK, I'm OK," Mr Swanson said before being whisked away by US officials, who said he would be taken to Manila for a medical check-up. Earlier a gaunt-looking Mr Mizuno wept in the arms of his wife and two daughters when the rebels freed him after 65 days in captivity. (Reuters)

Bologna protest over bombing

Bologna - The northern Italian city of Bologna ground to a halt for three hours yesterday during protests at the failure to find and punish those who bombed the railway station here ten years ago, killing 83 people and injuring hundreds more (Richard Bassett writes).

Only at midday did the area near the station return to life as a 10,000-strong cortege led by families of the bombing victims walked past. Two weeks ago an appeal court here acquitted 13 men convicted of the bombing. For the people of Bologna, a communist stronghold, the bombing has always been described as an act of "fascist terrorism". It has never been attributed to the communist Red Brigades who were active in the 1970s.

Kenyan lawyers challenge Moi

Nairobi - Fifty-four Kenyan lawyers have urged the government to dissolve parliament and hold multi-party elections, echoing a similar call made earlier this week by leading clergymen.

The parliament is made up of a vast majority of MPs who found their way there through rigged elections in 1988, the lawyers said in a statement sent to the ruling Kenya African National Union. Kanu members are considering reforms in the wake of anti-government riots last month. But the lawyers said nothing short of a multi-party election would meet mounting demands for change. They called on the government of President Moi to step down in favour of a broad-based interim administration. (AFP)



Royal ritual: Japanese imperial palace officials in ancient court costume planting a branch of a sacred tree during a ground-breaking ceremony on the site of a shrine for Emperor Akihito's coronation in November

Moscow to halt production of rail-mobile missiles

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN IRKUTSK

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, reported progress in many areas but no single breakthrough at the end of 10 hours of talks in eastern Siberia. The talks concentrated on Asian regional issues and security, including Afghanistan, but also touched on arms control, bilateral economic relations and Cuba, and set an intensive timetable for ministerial talks through the autumn.

The Soviet foreign minister

announced what was considered a minor arms control concession, saying that Moscow would halt production of its rail-mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles from the beginning of next year. He disclosed, however, that the planned deployment of the missiles was almost complete and said that their phasing-out or destruction would be a matter for negotiation at strategic arms talks in Geneva.

The importance of the move depends largely on whether Moscow intends to re-

place this form of deterrent and, if so, how and whether it will fall within the strategic arms reduction treaty already agreed in principle in Washington, or is additional to them. At a press conference on the verandah of the Irkutsk guest house, Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze agreed that there had been no breakthrough but that progress had been steady in many areas. The talks, Mr Shevardnadze said, had been fruitful and in an especially good and warm atmosphere. They have agreed to meet four more times before the end of October, the first meeting - probably reflecting Soviet priority - after the sixth round of talks on German unity in Moscow on September 12.

Mr Baker will stay on an extra day to take part in an extended three-day meeting on US-Soviet trade and economic co-operation attended by senior trade officials from both sides, and American businessmen. Mr Baker said a broad range of subjects was under discussion, including a bilateral investment treaty to protect US concerns wanting to invest in the Soviet Union, and a tax treaty, presumably to protect US businesses from punitive tax rates introduced by Moscow last month.

As though wishing to emphasise the importance of the meeting to the Soviet side, Mr Shevardnadze said participants would be received by President Gorbachev.

Doe men overrun at border

FROM AFP IN ABIDJAN

LIBERIAN rebels have captured the town of Mano River at the Sierra Leone border 100 miles northwest of the besieged capital, Monrovia, reliable sources reported here yesterday.

The sources, who are in daily radio contact with correspondents in Liberia, said that fighting started on Wednesday morning and by early evening the rebels of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, under Charles Taylor, had overrun the position, one of the last held by government troops in the West African country's interior.

They said that rebels had engaged the few remaining troops loyal to President Doe with machineguns and grenades. No heavy shelling was reported.

Since Monday, government soldiers had been frantically discarding their weapons, burning uniforms and slipping into the bush ahead of the rebels' advance.

The sources said the soldiers had expected Mr Taylor's rebels to arrive, as the insurgents had already taken positions near the border about 25 miles away.

Meanwhile, much of rebel-held territory in the north near the border with Guinea has been calm for weeks, but the economy has been affected and there is an acute shortage of food and other supplies, the sources said.

Trinidad coup leader faces death penalty

FROM JAMES BONE IN PORT OF SPAIN

THE self-styled imam who led the coup attempt in Trinidad could suffer the same fate as Michael X, the Black Power leader hanged on the island in 1975 for murdering the friend of a British heiress.

Yasin Abu-Bakr, who surrendered on Wednesday after holding more than 40 hostages in the parliament building and the state television centre for five days, was in military custody yesterday while charges were prepared.

Government officials denied claims by some of the detained rebels that they had been granted amnesty. "We have made no deals with this extremist group," said William Dookeran, the minister who chaired the cabinet during the hostage crisis. "Appropriate charges will be laid."

Mr Abu-Bakr's Jamaat al-Muslimeen, a radical black Muslim group, took hostage Arthur Robinson, the prime minister, and much of the cabinet last Friday in a coup attempt that led to more than 50 deaths.

The death that may hurt Mr Abu-Bakr and his followers more than any other was that of Leo Des Vignes, a member of parliament. Mr Des Vignes died of heart failure in hospital on Wednesday after being freed by hostages on Saturday with a gunshot wound in the leg. If murder charges are pressed against Mr Abu-Bakr, he could be executed as Michael X was 15 years ago.

Michael X, alias Michael Abdul Malik, a Trinidadian, set himself up as a Black Power leader in London in the 1960s. A former strongarm man for Gerald R. Ford, the notorious slumlord, he started a "cultural centre" called the Black House in Holloway Road, Islington. But the scheme ran into financial difficulty and he returned to Trinidad to pursue his political ambitions.

Like Mr Abu-Bakr he established a black Muslim commune. Among his followers was Gail Ann Benson, the daughter of a British Conser-

vative MP, who was killed and buried in a shallow grave. Michael X was charged with her murder but the case never went to trial and he was hanged in May 1975 for killing an associate.

Since then, Trinidad has rarely used the death penalty, although more than 100 people are on death row. The abolition of capital punishment is under review but a government official suggested the death penalty may now be retained as the result of Mr Abu-Bakr's coup attempt.

"He can be charged under the law for treason, and that is a capital offence," said another senior official. "If he is going to be charged, that is what he will be charged with." However, the officials cautioned that "not only the law is involved, but also the politics".

Most Trinidadians believe the government will not ask the courts to order Mr Abu-Bakr's execution. Despite official denials, suspicions linger that the hostages were freed as part of a deal. Before he was released on Tuesday, Mr Robinson said he had signed an agreement providing for an amnesty and the installation of a 90-day interim government to take the country to new elections.

Mr Robinson's injury - he was shot in the leg while being held hostage - has not made him a hero. Rather than praising his courage, Trinidadians appear to blame him for taking the country to the brink of disaster.

"My view is that politically he is finished," said Selwyn Ryan, a prominent political scientist and pollster who heads the St Augustine Research Association.

He said that Mr Robinson, whose popularity was plummeting before the coup attempt, now headed a "lame-duck administration", although he could probably soldier on until the end of the electoral term next year. The first test of his popularity will come in September's local elections.

Lal makes bitter attack on Singh

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian government's chief allies rallied behind Vishwanath Prasad Singh, the prime minister, yesterday for dismissing his eccentric and outspoken deputy on Wednesday night in an attempt to impose discipline on his bitterly divided cabinet.

Devi Lal, aged 76, immediately went on the offensive. He said he was the victim of a conspiracy hatched by the opposition Congress (I) party and elements within his own Janata Dal (People's Party). He called Mr Singh "really spineless" for dismissing him, an attack that amounted to a declaration of war on his former ally.

He said he had no intention of resigning from the Janata Dal, which leads the government and is riven with personality and faction clashes. There is now every likelihood that pro- and anti-Singh alle-

giances will harden into outright conflict as Mr Lal campaigns for retribution.

He has summoned what he calls a "farmers' rally" in central Delhi next Friday, which promises to be another stunning display of his power over parts of rural India. Last year, 500,000 people were transported to the city to mark his birthday, an astonishing record even by Indian standards. "Whenever I have been cornered I have returned stronger," he said yesterday, giving a taste of his combative response to dismissal. He added that he had never cared about the indignities heaped on him "because I am rural and lack sophistication of manners and language".

He was adamant that he would not seek to destroy the Janata Dal, which he was instrumental in creating. Indeed, he was the leading force behind the selection of Mr Singh as prime minister after the general election in November. "I built the Janata Dal and nurtured it. Why should I wreck it?"

However, the prime minister now has a powerful political enemy who seems bent on undermining him and, consequently, shaking the government that has rejected him. There will now be a constant threat of the administration falling apart under the stresses of internal conflicts instigated by Mr Lal and other disaffected party leaders.

Parties making up the coalition National Front government issued a statement saying that Mr Singh had the unquestioned prerogative to have a cabinet of his choice.

State chief ministers of the governing Janata Dal have also declared solidarity with Mr Singh, although most had counselled the prime minister earlier not to dismiss his powerful deputy.

Black market flourishes in barren Bucharest streets

FROM CATHERINE ADAMS IN BUCHAREST

THERE has been no beer in the shops in Bucharest for a month - hence the bizarre sight yesterday of a state brewery lorry loaded with crates racing through the backstreets of the capital with ten cars on its tail.

The convoy of drivers all aimed to be first in the queue at the state grocery for which the beer was destined. Most customers would be black marketeers or entrepreneurs intent on buying anything wholesale to resell for a profit, a system that results in chronic shortages of basic foodstuffs.

Since the revolution in December there has been no distinction drawn between the black marketeers and the 15,000 registered small businesses. Romanians see little difference: *biznisi*, the derogatory word applied usually to gypsy street sellers, just means "businessman".

With queues of up to three hours for bread, and the mayor of Bucharest speaking about the prospect of sugar rationing, the hundreds of bars and cafes in the capital will soon have nothing to sell and may disappear as suddenly as they appeared - "like mushrooms after the rain", as Romanians say. Under a new law, to be published this week, new businesses that fail to obtain authorisation will be fined up to 60,000 lei (£1,760 officially, but much more at black-market rates). More important, buying goods from state shops for resale will be banned.

Senator Mihail Matetovici, who represents the ruling National Salvation Front in Braila, said: "We are not trying to fight against initiative and privatisation, but there is a tendency to make money quick without working. We want to change the accent from trading to producing."

The minister of commerce's pub-

lic target, to make all trade autonomous by September, seems wildly optimistic after 40 years of communism. Everyone is at it, from peddling Western cigarettes, counterfeit dollars and "anti-baby" (contraceptive) pills to dating agencies. Children charge hotel guests to have their windcreens cleaned: one wiping them dirty, the other charging to wipe it clean again. Street cafes are thriving in a city where the mortuary-like state restaurants still stop serving at 9pm, as under Ceausescu, and prefer not to serve customers in the first place.

Ficu's terrace bar of 14 umbrellas on the dusty pavement at the main junction of Stefan the Great Street, at the foot of towering grey blocks of flats, has stayed open every night until 6am since it opened a month ago, despite running out of hot dogs after the third day.

At 7pm, music blaring out of huge

speakers is the signal for dozens queuing behind the fence to stand, peering for a table. The menu offers just three items: *Ness-happe* (cold instant coffee, 27 lei), ice cream (22 lei) and omelettes (14 lei). Dacia after Dacia (Romanian state car) pulls up for speedy drive-in service as waiters vault over the fence with finesse, carrying trays of cheap plastic laden with synthetic scarlet fizzy pop.

Doctors from the next-door emergency hospital next door call Ficu's the "external branch". "A lot of patients sneak out here," the patron's wife, Simina Ficu, said. "We try to serve them at the side because we don't like them sitting at the tables in their pyjamas." Her husband agrees they have had to drive to Yugoslavia to buy food and drink to keep the business going and say they will be affected badly by the law.

"The old laws against business

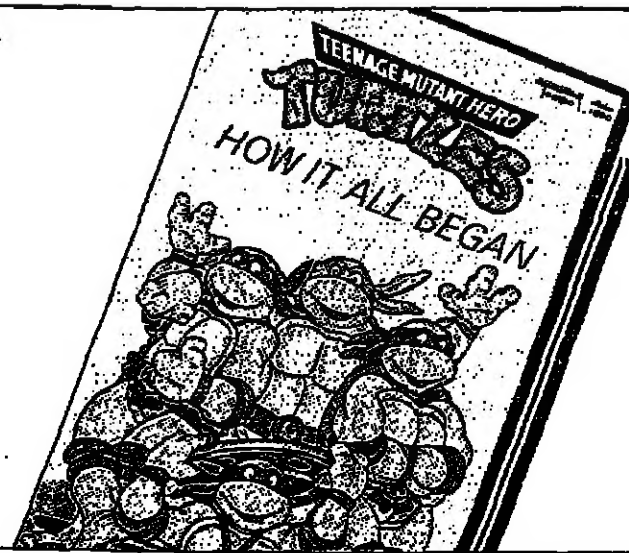
were not applied after the revolution, creating chaos," Senator Ioan Rus said. "So now you cannot find anything in the shops. You have to pay for a pair of shoes with a month's salary."

Doctors and other professional workers often supplement their wages after hours as taxi drivers. Regarded as private enterprise, such activities are illegal, but the level of corruption that courses through the veins of Romanian society means that they are unlikely to disappear overnight just because of the new law.

"The patron must have bribed a lot of people to rent this plot from the state," one cynical customer observed. A gypsy at our table points out a tall, clean-cut middle-aged man ambling through the tables with a stack of Albanian cigarettes to sell.

"I know him," he whispers. "He's a good bloke. He's a policeman."

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Hype comes to shove

Philip Howard

August is the driest month for publishing. The daily Niagara of publishers' hype has dwindled to a trickle. Publishers' publicity is a profession that has sprung up over the past generation, along with the enormous increase in advertising in every department of life. A generation ago, when publishing was a cosier business, such publicity as there was was left to the chairman and senior editors to handle on the old-boy network. Billy Collins, when he was still running his family firm, once complained at a planning meeting that not enough of the publicity was getting reviewed. In front of them all he telephoned the dozen of literary editors. "Harold," he bellowed down the phone, "we are publishing some very good books, and you are not reviewing them. I am going to put a selection of them in a taxi, and send them straight round to you." Loud and clearly audible to everyone the voice of the admirable literary editor came back: "Billy, you get on with your effing business, and leave me to get on with mine."

Nowadays, for better or worse, publishing is run by accountants and men and women in suits from the conglomerates, rather than by irascible amateur gents. And a cadre of professional book publicists has sprung up, whose job is solely puffing. In America, where they are even more advanced in such practices than we are, the Institute for Propaganda Analysis has examined the methodology of persuasion, and formulated seven basic devices used by publicists.

The "bandwagon" effect encourages people to buy a book because everybody else has. Another name for this trick is bestsellerism, the star system among books. A bestseller is to books what a celebrity is to humans. It is a book known primarily (exclusively) for its well-knownness. You don't have to read it.

"Card-stacking" is the device of loading an argument with evidence for one side while suppressing evidence to the contrary — i.e. bias through selected facts and statistics. It shows how far we have gone in worshipping the Baal of advertising that no publicist or politician sees anything dishonest, or even strange, in card-stacking.

"Glittering generalities" is the device of attaching attractive catchwords and euphemisms to your product, the book or the political party. "Name-calling" means labelling the opposition with unattractive though vague labels. President Bush campaigned largely by this device, using "liberal" as a boo-word. Name-calling is not unknown to British politicians. "Plain folks" is the device of persuasion through grass-roots image and folksy language, populist rant, and the sort of silly antics beginning: "Why, oh, why..."

"Testimonial" is the device of

using praise by a celebrity as persuasion. It is much used by publishers to push dodgy books, with quotations from celebrities on the dust-jacket. The prudent literary editor regards all such puffs with a raised eyebrow. If the book is so terrific, why does it need this slim crowd of witnesses to about its virtues on the cover? Doubts arise about the product, if we are not going to be left to make up our minds about it for ourselves.

"Transfer" is the device of carrying over the authority, sanction and prestige of something we respect to something the publicists want us to buy or vote for. Symbols such as the national flag, intimations of monarchy, the cross, and national symbols such as Big Ben and Uncle Sam are used in transfer.

In addition, British publishers have invented one or two persuasive devices of their own. One is known as the "Garlick" or "Connaught". This suggests that if you can only lure a literary editor to lunch, and fill him up with expensive food and drink until his eyes revolve reciprocally in opposite directions, he is bound to review your books more favourably. Since there are 5,000 publishers in Britain, this is flattery to the capacities of literary editors, though insulting about their venality.

The other peculiarly British publishers' device is the "brown paper job". This goes: "This book is so sensational, and its political implications are so shattering, that we dare not send out advance review copies in the usual way. However, just for you, and if you promise not to tell anybody else that you have got it, I can let you have a proof copy, wrapped in brown paper so that nobody else knows what is going on." Gullible editors of *The Times*, in ages past, have been known to pay £1,000 for such a brown paper parcel, only to discover that a similar package had been flogged to every editor in Fleet Street.

Advertising — with its attendant craft, publicity — is the science of arresting human intelligence for long enough to get money (or a vote, or a book review) from it. It is not a new art, but as old as the market economy. You can see it being practised by politicians in the plays of Aristophanes, and being taught in the Roman schools of rhetoric. It will not fade away while human nature runs on greed, envy, keeping-in-with-the-Joneses, the urge to improve oneself, and other strong emotions, not all of them despicable. There is some evidence that the excesses of advertising over the past generation have bred a more sophisticated and wary generation of punters. Publicity may become less fraudulent. But then, in the ad biz, sincerity is a commodity bought and paid for like everything else.

...and moreover

HENRY STANHOPE

Though never tempted to go round the world in 80 days I have wondered about trying to do so on eight words. The lack of a sponsor, one major disadvantage, they used to do this sort of thing for bets. Nowadays Phileas Fogg would never leave Pall Mall without a sponsor.

The other difficulty is the final choice of words. Seven almost choose themselves, by being more or less universally understood. These are: taxi, toilet, telephone, airport, hotel, beer and OK. Equipped with this slender portfolio one could eat, drink and be reasonably merry while travelling from continent to continent, even telephoning for the cricket scores on the way.

The pronunciation might need to be varied slightly — "twaleet" or "twaleit" for toilet — but even in Finland, where they have different words for almost anything, you can still call for a "taksi" in the street. For that matter you can order a "taksi" in Welsh Wales — though usually in vain because there aren't any. I toyed with adding "Manchester United" in the interests of broadening one's contact with the locals (it works: I have tried it, and this would have put me one over the eight).

My conclusion is that our language, rich though it is, could still benefit from an import from the Continent. I refer to the ubiquitous German *bitte*, which, though falling short of international status, can cover an admirable list of situations, the verbal equivalent of a Swiss army knife.

As anyone who has ever been to Germany knows, one can move around without saying anything else. True, one can do so without speaking a single syllable of the language, since they all speak English more fluently than we do. But *bitte* oils the wheels, so to speak. *Bitte* means not only "please" but "not at all". Accompanied by the right facial expression, it can speak additional volumes on its own. It can represent: "Excuse me", "Do you mind?", "No, after you", "Let me lead the way", "What was that you said?", "I wonder if you could pass the tomato sauce", "Forgive me, I'm a little hard of hearing", and "Could you tell

me the time of the next train to Baden-Baden?"

Finding myself with a headache in Helsinki once, I managed to locate a chemist's shop. Massaging my forehead and rolling my eyes, I let out a tentative groan to convey the nature of my distress. The lady paled and watched with an expression I had not seen the days of the late Gilbert Harding on *What's My Line?* — before running behind the demijohns of coloured water.

She was replaced by a muscular young demijohn in a white coat who was clearly used to dealing with drunks wandering in off the pavements on Friday nights. Quickly diagnosing my condition he sold me a bottle of highly priced seasickness pills and we parted on amicable terms. Had we been able to use *bitte* I am sure the transaction would have been simpler.

When an Englishman buys a newspaper, the conversation runs roughly on these lines: Customer: "Good morning. Could I have this copy of *The Times* please?" Shopkeeper: "Certainly sir. Thirty-five pence please. Lovely day again."

Customer: "Ran the mower over the lawn at the weekend." Shopkeeper: "No doubt we'll all pay it for it later — just when I go on my holidays. Ha ha ha."

Customer: "Wife's in bed with shingles too, worse luck." Shopkeeper: "Oooh dear, nasty that. Oh well, there you are. Mind how you go."

Customer: "Thank you. Bye."

Shopkeeper: "Bye-bye. Thank you."

Congenial though this is, it takes an awful lot of time. What they need is a drill like the Germans'. A similar transaction in Wiesbaden might go like this: Customer: "Bitte." Shopkeeper: "Danke." Customer: "Bitte." Wiedersehen. Shopkeeper: "Wiedersehen."

With such wonderful economy of words the Germans are in and out again in seconds. Now they have the rest of the morning to themselves, to make their wretched Porsches and machine tools, their hock, their Leopard tanks and pumpernickel. It's all to do with having a word for everything.

Sanctions are the world's only answer to Saddam



Sir Anthony Parsons, a former diplomat in six Arab capitals including Baghdad, on the need for international action

The invasion of Kuwait was not entirely surprising, despite the consensus that Saddam's threats and troop concentrations were sabre-rattling to whip the smaller Opec states into line over oil output quotas, and to force a price increase. In the run-up to the Iraqi invasion of Iran in 1980, the conventional wisdom was that the bombast from Baghdad was unlikely to go further. When Iraqi forces crossed the Iranian frontier in September, Saddam's reputation as a man of action was confirmed. In the present case, he knew he was facing a military walkover and he must have calculated that, internationally, he would get away with what amounts to naked aggression.

If he does get away with it he will have achieved many things. Whether Kuwait remains a nominally independent Iraqi puppet or whether the "interim government"

unification with mother-Iraq, he will have control of Kuwait's rich oil resources and enormous financial investments. He will be able to open up an alternative route to the waters of the Gulf, bypassing the Shatt-al-Arab waterway and rendering irrelevant the vexed question of whether it should be controlled by Iran or Iraq.

The remaining states of the peninsula, including Saudi Arabia, will be far too scared to offend him, and their foreign and economic (including oil) policies will increasingly fall under Saddam's control. He will probably stop short of an open challenge to his old enemy, President Assad of Syria, for fear of direct embroilment with Israel, and he may take a conciliatory line with Egypt, Jordan, and others in the hope of averting the build-up of Arab opposition. But it would be a great mistake to underestimate his ambition to lead the Arab world.

Is there anything that can be done to oblige Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and reinstate the legitimate government, and thereafter to desist from further bullying? It is difficult to imagine military action being taken, whether by the Arab states, one or more of the great powers, or the United Nations. The world of 1990 is far removed from the world of 1945, in which the victorious allies could overawe potential aggressors. The gargantuan transfer of military equipment and technology from the industrialised to the non-industrialised world means that many Middle Eastern countries have more front-line tanks and combat aircraft in their inventories than even countries such as Britain and France: more, that is, than any country except the two superpowers. Even the United States and/or the Soviet Union would have to think many times

before risking what might turn out to be a full-scale war with Iraq, with incalculable consequences for the region. No Arab combination is likely to take on Saddam Hussein, and the thought of the United Nations military enforcement (as opposed to peace-keeping) machine being cranked up after 45 years unused on the shelf boggles the mind.

However, this assault could prove to be the acid test for comprehensive mandatory sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. In the past, sanctions have failed, as over Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia in 1935 and the rebellion in Southern Rhodesia in 1965, because key countries have continued to trade with the culprit — the United States, Japan and Germany in the case of Abyssinia, and South Africa in the case of Rhodesia — and there has been widespread cheating by states which have nominally adopted sanctions. But the case of Iraq could be different.

There is no question that there has been aggression, condemnation has been universal and the security council has called for Iraqi withdrawal. There is no prima facie reason why, in the present international atmosphere, there should not be a unanimous resolution imposing mandatory sanctions on Iraq. The likelihood of any important trading country refusing to participate or of cheating is less than on previous occasions. Iraq is deeply in debt and in need of cash and credit for development and reconstruction after eight years of war. If the Iraqis could not export their oil, trade with and obtain credit from the outside world or purchase the equipment necessary to keep the military machine in good shape — that is, if Iraq were isolated economically as well as diplomatically — the regime might well have to abandon its aggressive policies.

If it comes to an international call for sanctions, all will depend on the Arab world. If the Arab nations stand firm against Iraq, economic measures could work. If they waver, Saddam Hussein's chances of getting away with aggression will be good.

Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, replies to criticism by Bernard Levin in *The Times*

Why silence will not help Hong Kong

Thirty-five years ago, when I was a young diplomat in Peking, we watched the slow collapse of the American effort to isolate communist China from the Western world. I did not suppose that we should see that policy solemnly advocated again in my working lifetime. It does not fit either Western or British interests, or the interests of the Chinese people. It is manifestly absurd.

We cannot forget the events in Tiananmen Square in June 1989. The European Community, the West as a whole, and Japan were right to take the measures they did in reaction to those events. Francis Maude was right to remind the Chinese on his recent visit that the steps they have taken towards respecting human rights are limited, and that further steps are needed if we are to get back on to the path of steadily improved Chinese dealings with the West that seemed hopeful before 1989.

I feel certain that China will change, not perhaps without further setbacks. But over the years the movement towards economic liberalisation will be followed by greater respect for political freedom. It must be right to encourage that change by contacts with China. The pace at which we build

these contacts must depend on what happens in China. There should be no pell-mell rush, and no attempt to obliterate the memories of Tiananmen Square. But President Bush is right not to imitate the attempt of John Foster Dulles to isolate China; and we are right to continue the policy of building contacts which we have followed steadily for 40 years.

Of course Britain has a particular justification for keeping in touch. We have to prepare for the day in 1997 when Hong Kong returns to China, and to do so responsibly. Because of this I had the total understanding of my EC colleagues when I told them that Mr Maude was going to Peking. There was no question of breach of an agreed EC line. It had always been accepted that there were particular reasons why Britain (and indeed Portugal because of Macao) should need from time to time to send a minister to Peking. In Hong Kong too that need is recognised. The comments from Hong Kong which reach the British media tend to be of the noisier kind. There is a widespread but quieter welcome in Hong Kong for the fact that we are, by frequent discussion with Peking, taking seriously our

responsibilities under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984. The idea that we would in some way be helping Hong Kong if we were to cut ourselves off from China does not survive a minute's serious examination.

What form should and does these discussions with Peking take? Obviously they do not consist in finding out what the Chinese want us to do and then doing it: the charge of kowtowism may be irresistible, but it does not fit the facts. If that had been our policy we would not be moving to the direct democratic election next year of 18 seats in the Hong Kong Legislative Council. If that had been our policy we would obviously have dropped the Nationality Bill as soon as the Chinese criticised it. If that had been our policy Hong Kong would have given first asylum to the boat people; and there would be no Bill of Rights.

But we do not treat Hong Kong as if its future could be separated from the future of China. That would be self-indulgent and shortsighted. We will not help the people of Hong Kong by refusing to have anything to do with China's leaders. At bottom we and the Chinese have similar interests

in seeing Hong Kong prosperous, stable and dynamic. Hong Kong is a vital source of hard currency and economic energy for the mainland. Much of the export industry in Guangdong province is the result of Hong Kong investment. More people now work for Hong Kong manufacturing firms in Guangdong than in Hong Kong itself. The richer and more confident we leave Hong Kong, the more valuable it will be to China and the better the prospect for its economic and political freedoms.

The joint declaration of 1984 established what remains the soundest available basis for Hong Kong's future. It is a binding international agreement which specifies that Hong Kong will have its own government, preserve its capitalist system, retain its human rights, laws, legal system, convertible currency, financial markets and free port. In the past year the Chinese have often reaffirmed their commitment to "one country, two systems". China's recently promulgated Basic Law states that socialism will not be extended to Hong Kong for at least half a century. On recent evidence you would get shorter odds on Hong Kong lasting 50 years than on socialism doing so.

This will not be a simple task for British policy over the next several years. It would, of course, be easier in one way to change to a policy of striking attitudes. But we cannot tow Hong Kong into the Pacific and start again regardless of China, and it is no use pretending we could. In another way it would be easier to avoid all argument with China and treat Hong Kong as if its destiny was to become just another Chinese province like the others. But that is not what the agreement says and not what Hong Kong needs.

Our responsibility is to help prepare Hong Kong and China for a genuine "one country, two systems". It will mean much patient and often quiet persuasion, and difficult decisions in Hong Kong itself. But we have made reasonable progress in recent months, and the situation is a good deal calmer than it was. The combination of British administration and Chinese capitalism remains a potent mixture, and provided we hold steady against the various buffets which will come our way it is reasonable to hope that the prospect set out in the joint declaration will become reality. This is the best available prospect.

Hackett's presentiment

One of the most avid observers of Saddam Hussein's blizzards on Kuwait is General Sir John Hackett, the former commander in chief of British forces in Germany, who in a book published 12 years ago came close to predicting such an invasion. In *The Third World War* Sir John said Kuwait would be invaded — but that it would be by Iran, then the most likely aggressor in the region.

"At the time Iran was ruled by the Shah and was pro-US, with Iraq pro-Moscow," he says. "I thought Iran would be the invader, but a lot has changed since then." He thought the dispute would not stop there, and that Iran would go on to invade Iraq.

Sir John, who was wounded in the Western Desert, is fatalistic about the power of Iraq. "Since the end of the war with Iran, Iraq has had the preponderant force in that region. I can think of no tactics by which Kuwait could have adopted to prevent this walkover. It was like a group of boy scouts being swept aside."

In a revised edition of his book, which sold three million copies, Sir John concluded that any major war would be triggered by what he called a "brush fire", a regional conflict similar to that between India and Pakistan. "The superpowers get sucked in and a major conflagration develops, eventually ending up with the use of nuclear weapons." He does not believe the Iraq-Kuwait conflict will develop in this way. "Oh, it's not a brush

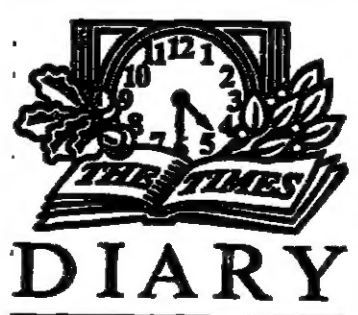
fire," he says cheerily. "It's a local problem. It can't escalate, because the Iraqis have provided unwelcome stability."

What Daisy wore

As they struggle to digest the parched grass of sun-scorched Britain, the nation's cows would no doubt be gratified to learn that Japanese scientists are aware of their plight. Having produced the prototype for a designer waistcoat to protect the cows from summer heat, a team from Tokyo University, led by Professor Mosaku Sakurai, has come up with the essential accessory: sunglasses.

The high-technology shades from the professor's laboratory are designed to help shield the cows' sensitive eyes not only from the harsh rays but from troublesome insects and bovine diseases. They have been tested on Japanese cows and observers are convinced that the cow with sunglasses is more content and likely to produce more milk. The glasses are designed to match Sakurai's model

She must be famous... Emeralds perhaps.



for a three-piece suit, made of unwoven materials such as straw, which covers the cow's head, back and stomach. "Cows produce less milk and lose their appetites when exposed to hot sun," says a university source, doubtless with an eye on the heating planet.

Short measure

Neither the home secretary, David Waddington, nor the Chancellor, John Major, has so far succumbed to the heatwave and turned up for work wearing shorts, but large numbers of their normally sober-suited civil servants have abandoned their furred umbrellas and worsted trousers in favour of above-the-knee pants.

"Yes, there are one or two here in shorts," says a spokesman at the Treasury. The Home Office also reported sightings of exposed male knees. And at the health department, the number of male employees wearing shorts outnumbered the women. Virginia Bottomley, the duty minister, has yet to follow the example of her staff. "The minister is sensibly dressed for the weather, but not in shorts," says one of her aides.

Predictably, staff at the Foreign Office have not let the side down. "No one is wearing shorts," sniffed a spokesman. Isn't it time Douglas Hurd set an example?

Late show

Welsh Secretary David Hunt found time the other day to meet a group of irate nurses who wanted him to reverse his decision to delay Project 2000, a long awaited training scheme. The delegation was delighted when Hunt announced a U-turn and said the scheme would go ahead on schedule. What they did not know was that some time before the meeting Hunt had sent out an embargoed press release announcing his change of mind. Said one nurse: "We should have smelt a rat when he leaned forward and said, 'My wife is a nurse, you know.'"

Royal Opera House general director Jeremy Isaacs placated disgruntled ballet lovers with the offer of a free interval drink after a 20-minute delay in this week's premiere of *The Planets*. First-nighters who thronged the champagne bar in anticipation of some complimentary bubbly were gently sent away to obtain vouchers which could then be exchanged for less exotic fare from the main bar. Times are obviously hard.

Out for the count

Friends of Count Nikolai Tolstoy gathered in London last night to launch an appeal to raise money for his family. It was a chance for Tolstoy, hard pressed since losing a libel action to Lord Aldington, to make amends to the secretary of

the appeal, Kathy McGrath. "The first time we met he hit me over the head with a 6ft Cromwellian pike," says McGrath sweetly. "It knocked me out cold." When Tolstoy delivered the blow, McGrath was a footsoldier in a mock army of Royalists doing battle with Roundheads in the Worcestershire countryside. Only when the Russian historian, a colonel in the Cavaliers' army, pulled his unconscious victim from the battlefield did he discover it was a woman. "He assumed I was a man. It's hard to tell the difference when you are in battle gear. I wouldn't have minded, but we were supposed to be on the same side," says McGrath.

First steps

More than a hundred of the Soviet army's crack troops are preparing to invade Britain next month, but armed only with musical instruments. "They won't have snow on their boots and they will not be marching up the high street," says a spokesman for the Red Rocket Ensemble (called that because they man missile defences outside Moscow). The ensemble includes a platoon of women and comes with a selection of Cossack dances, rousing Russian songs and traditional dances performed with a balalaika.

They will sing mostly in Russian, but there will be one or two songs in English. Apparently some of the morale-boosting tunes sung by British troops in the two world wars are popular with Muscovites. Perhaps they're already clearing their throats for a rousing rendition of "It's a long way to Tipperary".

If you want to be a success, watch my lips

Public speaking is an art we can all learn, provided we look as if we are enjoying ourselves and know when to stop

THE five executives sitting around the conference table were there to wrestle with the one element of their working lives which caused them sleepless nights and over which they felt they had no control.

The marketing co-ordinator for a famous perfume house summed it up when she said: "I want to be able to get up in front of a sales conference without feeling as if I can't breathe and my heart is beating so loud I can't speak."

The three men and two women had joined a two-day course to learn to speak in public. All highly successful in their individual professions they felt that this was the one part of the job which they were unable to handle. While each thought their problem was agonisingly unique, to Cristina Stuart, the 48-year-old managing director of Speakeasy Training, they were typical of the thousands of business and professional men and women she trains each year.

She finds that most people believe that public speaking is a natural talent. "In fact, like so many management skills, it has to be taught," she says, "and a lot of people's jobs depend on how well they can put themselves across."

For most people, nerves are the main stumbling block. Mrs Stuart teaches them how to breathe to relax and tells them "concentrate on your anxiety, recognise what the symptoms are and watch it go up and down. The more you concentrate on it, the more you'll be able to live with it."

Working on the accepted estimate that words count for only 7 per cent of the speaker's effect on an audience while voice counts for 38 per cent and appearance for 55 per cent, Mrs Stuart emphasises

the importance of body language — provided it is natural.

"Do anything you like with your hands but don't have them in the same place the whole time. Look pleasant — people like looking at someone who appears to be enjoying themselves, audiences don't want you to fail."

Mrs Stuart became involved in public speaking after attending a weekend course "which taught me that I was better than I thought and that I liked doing it". She started off teaching women in what proved to be the mistaken belief "that women lacked confidence more than men". Her one-to-one clients have included IBM, the National Health Service, Saatchi and Saatchi, British Petroleum and BAT Industries. She has taught solicitors, accountants, bank managers and hair-stylists who wanted to learn how to do a running commentary while giving a demonstration.

HER two-day public courses cost £485 per person, with never more than five people to a trainer. Her one-to-one clients have included several MPs anxious to appear more credible while being interviewed. She would love to "get Margaret Thatcher back to her normal voice, whatever it was" and teach Neil Kinnock "the value of the full stop".

She videos her clients' efforts and then insists that they look for the positive aspects of their performances. "I don't believe anyone can't be a better speaker," she says. She believes in meticulous preparation. This includes discovering as much as possible about the audience and being clear about the objective of the exercise. "Only select two or three ideas and think about recapping. People don't listen very well and miss out on some of the things you're saying. Capture your audience at the beginning and end with a bang: a short, strong conclusion. Stopping is often the most difficult thing. And practice. One practice out loud is worth five silent mental rehearsals."

SALLY BROMPTON

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Speaking for herself: Cristina Stuart in action

Policing sex with sensitivity

At Scotland Yard just 16 investigators in the obscene publications squad struggle to contain Britain's rising tide of child pornography and protect its victims. Alan Franks meets their mild chief

Of all the pornography, hard, soft, printed or on film, which litters the headquarters of the obscene publications squad at Scotland Yard, there is one item which is oddly more menacing than the rest. It is not a video, nor a sexually explicit picture: it is a photograph album with an innocent floral cover containing snapshots of pre-adolescent boys with open faces and trusting smiles.

Some of the photographs date back to the 1950s, freezing the subjects into eternal boyhood for the owner's enjoyment. The owner, meanwhile, is serving a prison sentence for aiding and abetting a sexual assault on a boy. He is a retired schoolteacher, who also turned his hand to recording sexual abuse on video.

More than all the other images of perverted desire, it is this album which, with its apparent harmlessness, comes closest to drawing the contempt of the squad's chief, Supt Michael Hames. The loss of that album, he observes, probably hurt the offender more than the loss of liberty, for it was carefully compiled over decades.

Mr Hames is a normally mild man with a matter-of-fact diplomacy about his area of crime. He is married to Jacqui Hames, who presents BBC's *Crimewatch* programme, and has two grown-up children from his previous marriage. "In terms of serious crime," he says, slowly and with careful weight, "I judge child abuse to be just below murder and rape. If the child abuse is accompanied by rape... then obviously the crime goes up a little more."

This is an important and sensitive time for the squad, officially known as TO 13; started in the early 1970s, it increased its numbers by six at the start of the year when Mr Hames took charge, bringing its total of investigators to 16.

The priorities of the unit are to protect potential victims of child pornography, and to enforce such legal prohibitions as exist on "sadistic and bizarre material". The addition of the six is a significant expansion for a squad which has always believed it is only scratching at the surface of "the hidden crime". In 1985 the number of key investigations into child pornography carried out by TO 13 was just five; two years later it had risen to 37; last year Scotland Yard carried out 89 warrants under the Obscene Publications Act, and 52 under the Protection of Children Act.

The terrible irony is that even as it broadens its net, the squad uncovers more startling indications of the enormity of its task. Given that TO 13 has on file more than 3,000 names of known or

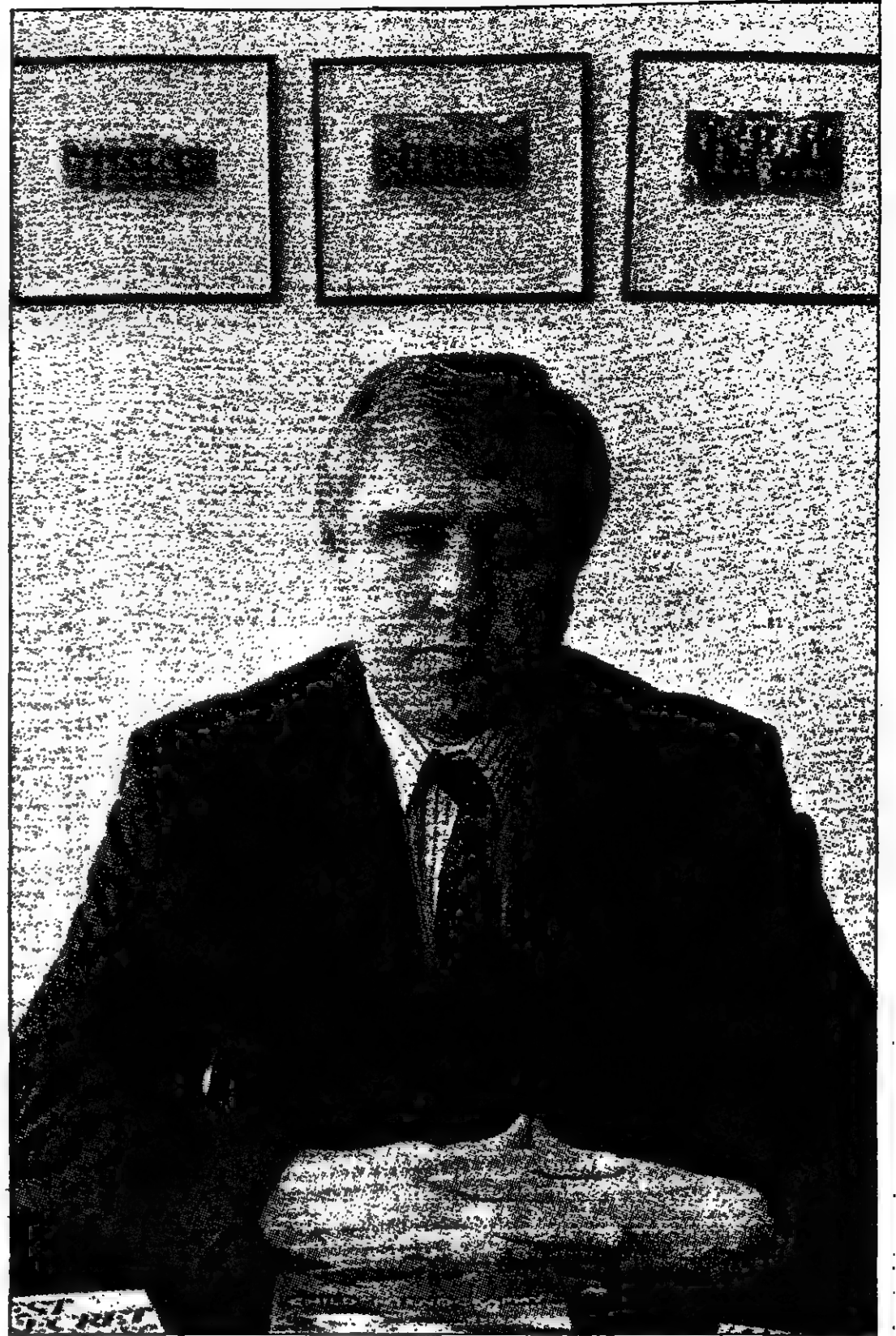
suspected paedophiles in Britain, and that according to further American research, the fixated offender is likely to abuse an average of 380 times in the course of his life (almost all offenders are male), it is easy to endorse police fears that the number of victims in the UK already runs well into six figures.

Whenever child pornography receives a fresh round of public exposure, the resulting hysteria can upstage the continuing menace of proven abuse. Yet the reports last week, which so shocked David Waddington, the home secretary, that "snuff" films might exist in Britain came not from a sensational press, but from the police itself. It was Scotland Yard, although not Mr Hames's squad, which confirmed that the disappearance of boys over a six-year period was being investigated, as well as deaths during the making of films in London, dating back to 1984. The announcement was made after a 12-month operation, code-named Orchid, by a squad based in east London.

"What has concerned me in the past," says Mr Hames, "is that the hype terrifies the life out of parents whose children have gone missing. It also distracts us from the real issues which surround abuse. While the killing of children may be the ultimate obscenity, we must not be drawn away from the broader question, namely the persistent long-term abuse both within and outside the family."

There is a further difficulty, so thorny that it carries the risk of being compounded by the very fact of its discussion. Child pornography in the UK is almost invariably made by the abusers themselves, for their own titillation and, through an underground network of exchange, the gratification of others. Broadcasts and newspaper cuttings, however damning, are themselves enlisted into the body of erotica simply through addressing the questions. No matter how restrained the tone, Mr Hames maintains, someone somewhere will cut out the articles and send them on to a like-minded person.

Then there is the stigma of voyeurism, and the easy suspicion that some of those working in the field of child abuse may be involved for the wrong reasons. While Mr Hames is speaking, a sudden noise like a small rugby roar can be heard from the next room, where a group of PCs and WPCs from west London are watching a seized video and being instructed on the obscenity laws. But, as Mr Hames is quick to point out, it is more likely to be the sound of embarrassment than of ribaldry. The young instructor gets



Supt Michael Hames: "In terms of serious crime, I judge child abuse to be just below murder and rape"

on with the talk, stopping the film from time to time, and commenting with perfect fitness. This has all the sexual allure of a car maintenance course.

As far as "snuff" movies are concerned, Mr Hames says emphatically that his squad has seen none in the UK. "If they do exist," he adds, "they would not be on general display. After all, if you made a video of a murder in which you were involved, you would be putting yourself at terrible risk. If they were to be passed around, they would be natural blackmail material."

Yet while TO 13 attempts to get the measure of the problems, the problems themselves move up a gear. "It is not necessarily that there is more pornography about," says Mr Hames, "rather that the content of it is escalating, becoming harder, more vicious, more full of torture. And advances in photography since the 1960s mean a much more sophisticated product is available."

He picks up a copy of a lurid adult magazine called *Black Masters*. *White Slaves*, full of bondage and joyless faces. "Two juries have found this not to be obscene in the meaning of the 1959 Act. If this is not obscene, what is? Yet strictly speaking, this could be on

display in the local newsagent. But the juries are the arbiters: the public determines the standard. If someone goes and buys that, he might fantasise over it. But what is to stop him turning that fantasy into reality?"

Does he not accept anything of the "safety valve" argument, which has it that the existence of pornography deflects sexual rapacity away from human targets, and that this holds true for child porn as well as for adult?

By way of an answer he turns unashamedly again to the US where, he says, research is carried out on the scale which the problem merits. "It has been shown that the vast majority of murderers, serial rapists and child molesters have pornography. If you listen to the tape of the murderer Ted Bundy on the eve of his electrocution, he speaks about the role which pornography had played in the crimes he committed. He said it was central."

Despite the obstacles, TO 13 has also had its breaks. In 1988, when the suitcase of a paedophile travelling via Gatwick was accidentally sent to Heathrow, it was searched and found to contain pornographic videos. More importantly,

it set off a train of clues from Walsall and Andover to The Netherlands and Belgium, and led to a number of arrests and successful prosecutions. "I do not know what knock-on effect this had on the abusers and the makers of material, but I can say that we rescued victims, or potential victims."

"The thing I am anxious to do now is to try to conduct a debate about pornography and child sex abuse in as reasonable and balanced a way as possible, while acknowledging that sex and everything related to it is the staple diet of the tabloid press." Next week he will contribute to this debate when he addresses the fourth international conference on incest and related problems at Northwick Park Hospital in Middlesbrough.

"Until the Cleveland affair," he says, "people either could not or did not want to imagine that child abuse took place on such a scale. It is such an awful subject, and we shy away from it."

Perhaps the worst of all pornography's effects is to make us worry as parents about our own relationship with our children. It might be perfectly healthy, yet we find ourselves wondering whether we are doing something deeply and fundamentally wrong.

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LET IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Divine intervention

Is there any logical explanation for the successes claimed by water diviners?

AS THE aquifers of old England dry up and pictures of the cracked beds of reservoirs fill our television screens, a retired businessman from Clackmannanshire in central Scotland is offering his services as a water diviner to five English water authorities.

Michael Cranfield, aged 66, of East Burnside, Dollar, has stepped forward because, he says: "It's been on the box, all of them running out of water, and they don't know what to do. I don't want to travel much, but if I can help..."

Mr Cranfield, who has been dowsing for 53 years, recently discovered a 2,000-gallons-a-day supply on the Buccleuch estate, and last year he pinpointed a hilltop well on an avocado farm in Natal, South Africa, where he was holidaying with "cousins" of his wife. "I had told my wife I wasn't taking any work with me, but I slipped three twigs into my briefcase," he confesses.

The Borthwick Quarry in Midlothian was suffering a shortage of water for processing a year ago, and attempts to dig wells had proved unsuccessful. Chris Cole, the general manager of Lothian Sand, says: "We were faced with possibly closing the quarry and



Water cure: an early dowsing

laying off men." He heard of Mr Cranfield from another diviner in Cornwall, and although sceptical, called him in. Water was found exactly where Mr Cranfield indicated, 110ft down, and is still producing a continual supply of between ten and 20 gallons a minute — for a £30 fee.

His favoured divining twig is Sussex-grown hazel, although in the last few months he has been having remarkable success finding water with a crystal pendulum held over a map of an estate or farm. He learnt to dowsing as a child in Sussex when a friend of the family, a naval commander, demonstrated the art on his parents' lawn. But it is only in the last 18 months that he has taken it up on a regular basis. In a year he has

made 52 dowsing visits, and found water on 51 occasions.

There are no foolproof, scientific techniques for pinpointing water in the ground, according to Dick Monkhouse of the Institute of Hydrology in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. Instruments are able to record a rock formation's electrical resistivity, a measure to some extent of the water content, but these give little indication of how plentiful or how easily the water can be extracted.

Instead water scientists use historical data taken from existing wells, borehole tests and general geological principles to determine if and how much water of sufficient quantity for a worthwhile period of time.

The Institute has compared the success rate claims of water diviners with random drilling trials in certain kinds of rock formation, finding little difference between the two approaches. "It suggests that in some areas water diviners may be kidding themselves," Mr Monkhouse says.

Mr Cranfield says that concentration is the key to successful dowsing. "At the turn of the century every farm had a hedger, a ditcher, and a dowsing — it was one of the farm-skills which has gradually faded out of sight."

On a normal visit he charges around 45p a mile, hardly exorbitant. "I suppose I could charge the earth, but I don't really like to," he says.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

Barbara Amiel is on holiday

A field test on the royal acres

As the Prince of Wales takes his organic produce to market, William Greaves picks up some grains of wisdom at Highgrove

To the untutored eye they were weeds. To David Landale each had a name, to be spoken with pride. From time to time the chief executive of the Duchy of Cornwall would stoop down to identify a clump which caught his eye. "That's knotgrass and down there, look, is field pansy and then there's wild parakey, fumitory, fat hen, speedwell, chickweed..."

It could have been an educational trail through some wild, overgrown sanctuary dedicated to the whims of nature. Except that this was a highly prized field of wheat in the estate of the Prince of Wales's Gloucestershire home, which any day now would be harvested to produce next year's stock of Highgrove stoneground wholemeal bread — the 59p loaf with the royal pedigree which made its much trumpeted debut in some Tesco stores last week.

And Mr Landale is the first to admit that all those weeds would break the heart of any conventional arable farmer. Even the poppies, which injected a glorious red haze into the fluttering sea of golden ears, would have ruined any chance that modern yeoman would have had of getting a decent night's sleep.

But the heir to the throne is dedicated to the cause of organic farming and his chief executive clearly shares his enthusiasm for a return to the chemical-free agricultural days of old. And if that means a yield of no more than one and a half tons of wheat to the acre, then that is the price which has to be paid for an environmental conscience.

"An East Anglian farmer growing wheat or barley is highly disappointed if he hasn't made four tons to the acre," said Mr Landale, striding between adjacent plots of wheat and oats at Westonbirt, one of the four home farms around Tetbury which make up the Highgrove estate.

"To do that he needs a very large amount of imported fertiliser and also to have sprayed that crop a minimum of eight times with a combination of pesticides and herbicides. So when you looked at that field there wouldn't have been a single foreign body, either plant or insect, which could have survived."

Highgrove has 30 acres of wheat, 26 acres of oats and 51 acres of grassland which are totally organic, while another 160 acres are in the throes of conversion. The entire 900 acres will qualify for the Soil Association symbol by the harvest of 1993. Mr Landale is insistent, however, that neither he nor the Prince has taken leave of his commercial sanity.

Indeed, if the Tesco test run is successful, the Duchy not only hopes that it might be the forerunner of a range of "environmentally-conscious" products — such as its own organic milk, beef and lamb — but also hopes that other farmers will follow its initiative by forming themselves into co-operatives and selling directly into the marketplace.

"The greatest difficulties are experienced during the conversion period," Mr Landale said. "To qualify for the Soil Association symbol the land must be entirely free from artificial fertilizers for two years, during which time there is no compensation for the reduc-

tion in yield. But when you have that symbol, your wheat, for instance, can be sold for something like £250 a ton, compared with the standard price of around £118 a ton. And the price of growing it is cheaper, too. For a standard commercial crop the input, including fertilizers and sprays, would be £90 an acre, while our costs work out at only £26 an acre."

The figures came tumbling out with practised facility. When Mr Landale is not looking after the day-to-day administration of the Duchy's 127,000 acres of land, stretching from the Isles of Scilly

to Lincolnshire, he runs his own 5,000-acre estate near Dumfries, in southwest Scotland. But is organic farming merely a refusal to accept scientific progress? Apart from the undoubted pleasure of walking among fields cultivated by the centuries-old science of crop-rotation and untouched by agrochemicals, is the end product any better to eat? And, if not, is it merely nostalgia which leads to the ultimate buyer paying more for the Soil Association symbol?

"I do not believe — and I'm quite prepared to stand corrected — that you are necessarily producing something which is any better,

in those terms. But what you are doing is producing something which is totally free from any unnatural substance. And there are people who are prepared to pay a little bit more for food which was not produced at the expense of the environment."

"If you look around you here you will see all kinds of species of other plants. Those plants are producing seeds which, in turn, are feeding whole myriads of creatures. Where I live in Scotland, although we've by no means gone in for high-intensive arable farming, the partridge has practically disappeared. I guarantee

there will be no shortage of partridge here." It was in 1963 that the Duchy home farms at Highgrove embarked upon a controlled switch to organic farming, but the first certified crop was not produced until 1988. The following year's wheat harvest of 40 tons was sent directly to Ranks Hovis McDougall's mill at Hull, one of the few in Britain to possess a Soil Association certificate, and the resultant 50g loaves finally took their bow last week.

The 23 stores selected by Tesco for the 12-week trial are mostly in the home counties and the company is adamant that it was in no

way influenced by the connection with Prince Charles. "We will be treating it in the same way as any other new product," the chairman, Sir Ian MacLaurin, says "and at the end of the test period we will sit down with the Duchy of Cornwall and discuss the lessons learnt."

First signs, however, are that those lessons should not be too painful. "It is selling out in a lot of our stores and we are very pleased with the response," said a Tesco spokesman yesterday.

None the less, it took three years from the time of the decision to go organic for Highgrove to produce its first Soil Association certified wheat crop — a period during which it ran the risk of reduced yields without the solace of receiving higher prices. Could other farmers be expected to undertake such a gamble?

Mr Landale said: "When we are converting we always start with two years of a mixture of clover and grass which has actually given us quite a good yield of forage — not much less, in fact, than when we used artificial fertiliser. That was one of our greatest worries, but we need the forage for our livestock anyway, and it came as a great relief to discover that we didn't suffer too greatly during that time."

"But the Prince of Wales is quite clear. He does not expect anyone to be forced into following him, or to feel themselves obliged to do so. He is giving a lead. And he is particularly keen to encourage farmers to improve their profits by cutting out the middle man. After all, Tesco's, Sainsbury's, Safeways and the other big supermarket chains are the real world and, if we are successful, there is no reason why, say, Scottish beef or smoked salmon producers could not get together and follow suit. Of course, it is not certain whether there will always be a price premium for organic produce, but at the moment there is an enormous demand — and far too much of it is being met from overseas."

Despite a heaven-sent shower or two of rain, Mr Landale would not have been human — and certainly not a farmer — if he did not sign off with a grouse about the weather. "We have a shortage of grass for our livestock and a shortage of water for filling the grains," he said.

But even a drought could not wither his optimism entirely. "Cows are always happy on little grass if they've got the sun on their backs," he said. It was an appropriate note on which to say goodbye to a dedicated natural farmer.

Back to the roots: David Landale surveys a crop of wheat grown by traditional methods on the royal estates at Highgrove, in Gloucestershire



PETER TRIVNOR

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ARTS

ROCK: INTERVIEW

As the spirit moves them

Rose Rouse meets the Neville Brothers, first family of contemporary New Orleans music

Four brothers from New Orleans formed a new band in 1977. But it sometimes seems that the Neville Brothers have been purveying their uniquely eclectic party-mix of Mardi Gras music, rhythm 'n' blues, funk, reggae and soul as long as anyone can remember. The bare-chested saxophonist, Charles Neville, remembers appearing on a New Orleans campus, when a student ran up and exclaimed: "You played when my father was here." Longevity is a fundamental part of the Neville Brothers experience. Aaron Neville, his quivering fragile voice framed by incongruous bulk, was responsible for the 1966 hit ballad "Tell It Like It Is". Art Neville was a founder member of those doyens of New Orleans funk, the Meters. Charles Neville has accompanied many an avant-garde jazz ensemble, as well as B.B. King and the youngster Cyril Neville (aged 42) still plays with his own reggae band, the Uptown All-Stars. So that longevity runs parallel with musical diversity.

The Neville Brothers are steeped in New Orleans party culture. Their uncle was a Mardi Gras Indian and they perform at every jazz festival and Mardi Gras. Indeed, for many years they seemed unable to escape from their home city's fiercely proud parochialism. Although always compelling in performance, they were ill-served by most of their recordings. Such were the fashion-conscious vagaries of producers and record companies that the Neville Brothers managed to produce a bland, post-Travolta disco-boom album

called *The Neville Brothers* in 1979. Oddly, the record is now a cult object, and copies apparently fetch \$150 (£81.50) in New Orleans. Then came a selection of unrepresentative, comparatively weak releases through the 1980s. The arrival of the Canadian producer Daniel Lanois changed all that. In 1989, the Neville Brothers released *Yellow Moon* to the resounding clatter of transatlantic critical acclaim. "At the time, there was talk of Nelson Mandela being released and things were beginning to happen in Eastern Europe," says Charles Neville. "We felt times were changing and the songs reflect that."

The most moving song on the album is Aaron Neville's version of Bob Dylan's "With God On Our Side". Charles says: "We did two songs from Dylan's *Times They Are A-Changin'* album because we felt they were relevant."

One of the Neville Brothers' persistent problems has been getting radio play. "They don't know what category to put us in: we have a white audience so the black stations won't play us and we're black so the white stations won't play us," says Neville. "So gradually we are creating our own category."

The single "Sister Rosa", about a civil rights protester in 1955 who refused to give up her bus seat to a white, did not receive any airplay, either. "The status on the American play lists is determined by sending out the 12-inch to clubs," says Neville. "They said they liked the beat but they didn't like the message. People, they informed us, just want to dance mindlessly."



Fragile voice, bulky frame: Aaron Neville has been a noted singer since the mid-1960s

Voodoo is closely associated with New Orleans – as a tourist attraction, of course, but also as part of the cultural heritage. The Neville Brothers are connected with this ancient form of witchcraft. "The really danceable rhythms are derived from voodoo rhythms," says Neville. "They come from the original Yoruba dance ceremony that was transplanted to the Caribbean and then down to New Orleans."

Working once more from Daniel Lanois's home-based studio

(but he has moved since they recorded *Yellow Moon*) in New Orleans, the Neville Brothers have recorded a new album, *My Brother's Keeper* (reviewed below). Charles maintains that a major thread running through the songs is spiritual communication. Oddly, though, the brothers adhere to different religions. Aaron is a Catholic, Cyril is a rastafarian and Charles is more of a spiritual wanderer. "All of us realise the different names stand for the same thing," says Charles Neville.

"What rastas call Jah, Muslims call Allah and Christians call Jesus, is the same entity. The spiritual element in each of us is really what connects us."

Long years of adversity – little success, spells in prison and drug addiction – forced the Neville Brothers to survive on their own faith in their music. "We were considered desperadoes," says Charles. "For some years, we lived desperate lives but we kept our focus on the music." Self-belief has paid off at last.

ROCK: BRITONS IN THE US

Mancunian graffiti on Manhattan's walls

Manchester's young rock musicians seem about to repeat the 1960s success enjoyed by their Liverpool elders, reports Steve Turner

Banners hanging from the walls inside the Sound Factory, a warehouse dance club on Manhattan's East Side, proclaim "From Manchester With Love". The DJs are playing a selection of acid house music. The room is packed with 2,000 bodies. Outside on the street are a further 1,000 who were unable to get in. This is New York's opportunity to experience the Hacienda, the club at the centre of the new Manchester music scene. For four consecutive nights, the atmosphere of the celebrated northern night spot has been recreated as part of a tour which is selling Manchester to America.

The DJs are Mike Pickering, Graeme Parks and Paul Oakford, and tonight they are to be followed by Happy Mondays live on stage and the American debut of 808 State. Central Television is on hand to film the event for a documentary.

The last time Happy Mondays were in town was in 1989 as a support act for the Poodles. There was no big welcome then. "No one knew who they were," remembers Beth Jacobson, press director for Elektra Records, Happy Mondays' American label.

Since then, the enthusiasm for all things Mancunian has filtered

through to America, mostly via the English music press, which is avidly read by trend watchers. There have been major features in *Rolling Stone*, *Elle*, *The New York Daily News* and the *Los Angeles Times*. The weeks the Hacienda came to Manhattan, *Newsweek* ran a two-page story ("Stark Raving Manchester") which was its cover story in the international edition.

At the moment, the media buzz has not created a buying panic. Albums by the Stone Roses and Happy Mondays are charting only in the "high hundreds", releases have been announced for Inspiral Carpets, A Guy Called Gerald and 808 State and the music is being played on college and alternative radio. "Step On", Happy Mondays' new single, has become a dance chart hit.

"America is ready for something big," says Paul Cook, entertainment manager of the Hacienda and organiser of the Trance America Tour which took two of his DJs to nine cities. "But it won't be this summer."

Factory Records' owner Tony

Wilson is already talking in terms of "our invasion". Happy Mondays and Northside, who have just played New York, are both on his label and the Hacienda is his club. He is keen for American journalists to see Manchester 1990 as a social phenomenon along the lines of San Francisco 1967 or Memphis 1956. "This is the first blue-collar revolution in pop since Elvis," he told one of them.

The journalists may harbour scepticism about what one American press release defines as "the all-night grooves of the loopy, psychedelic, dub-house funk" but most of them dutifully record the suggested parallel. Robert Hilburn, writing in the *Los Angeles Times*, hedged his bets with these words: "Revolution or not, Manchester is the centre of rock 'n' roll energy in England at the moment – and that British energy has filtered across to America so many times over the last three decades – from the Beatles and Liverpool in 1964 to the Sex Pistols and London in 1977 – that any build-up deserves monitoring."

Elektra's Beth Jacobson has found herself invariably selling the Manchester lifestyle, rather than her group, Happy Mondays. "I knew that Happy Mondays weren't going to get into *Rolling Stone* as a commercial band," she says. "Rather, I would tell the journalists that this was a story with a strong sociological angle: that there were kids dressing like no one is dressing in America, a flourishing recreational drugs scene, a feeling of unity and an incredible enthusiasm for dance."

The question is: will young Americans in the 1990s see their aspirations reflected in the drug-infused dance music of a crowd of working-class kids from the north of England, or is Manchester music going to remain a cult?

China Orr, an American publicist for the Stone Roses, has been yet to play North America, but she says America will welcome something with a less-polished surface. "A lot of people like the irreverence and cheekiness of a band like the Stone Roses," she said. "They're not slick and packaged. They're rock 'n' roll."

Everyone involved in the selling of Manchester to America would agree with Pareles's conclusion that "Manchester bands are going to have to make their way individually in the United States." The Stone Roses, whose music is more influenced by the Byrds and Beatles than it is acid house, are already distancing themselves from the phenomenon.

"We are trying to keep them as separate as possible from the Manchester movement," says Gina Orr. "When the movement goes, we don't want the Stone Roses to go with it."

Lauren Heinz, American publicist for 808 State, wants to promote her group as "British pop with a weird twist" for the same reason. "There is an interest in Manchester," she concedes. "But it is problematic to lump them altogether. They don't all represent the same thing."

DAVID SINCLAIR

ALBUMS

Rarities give good cause fresh look

Van Morrison, Eric Clapton, Guns 'n' Roses and others: *Nobody's Child* – Romanian Angel Appeal (Warner Bros 7599-26280-1)

ORGANISED principally by George Harrison, *Nobody's Child* is a compilation intended to raise funds for the Romanian Angel Appeal, a charity set up by Olivia Harrison, Barbara Bach, Linda McCartney, Yoko Ono and Elton John on behalf of the sickeningly neglected orphan community in post-Ceausescu Romania.

The title track, "Nobody's Child", performed by the Traveling Wilburys with their usual pseudo-ramshackle nonchalance, could have been written for the occasion, but was apparently discovered on an old Lonnie Donegan recording.

Other songs are either previously unreleased compositions or rare recordings of old numbers, such as Paul Simon and George Harrison's faltering duet of "Homeward Bound" as featured on *Saturday Night Live*.

While none of it is front-line material, the album does at least avoid the syndrome endemic to "good cause" collections, of sounding instantly over-familiar, and there are several items which fans of the artists concerned will not wish to miss. These include Billy Idol's muscular "Lovechild" (written by Harrison), Stevie Wonder's intense piano and voice ballad "Feeding Off the Love of the Land" and Guns 'n' Roses' pugnacious "Civil War".

The Neville Brothers: *Brother's Keeper* (A&M 395 312-2)

After their adventures with high-flying producer Daniel Lanois on last year's *Yellow Moon* – surely the most critically applauded commercial flop for several years – the Neville Brothers (interviewed above) make a welcome return to first principles on *Brother's Keeper*. Half-gospel,

half-voodoo, their sound is descended from the undulating rhythms and potent spirituality of New Orleans Mardi Gras music, and they are at their best when they are riding the groove rather than trying to fashion a rounded pop statement.

Accordingly, the centrepiece of this album is Art Neville's languid state-of-the-nation rap on "Sons and Daughters", a detour into Gil Scott-Heron territory which is driven along by nothing more than a relentlessly spooky snare shuffle. But even where the arrangements are more fully realised, there is not so much as a

hint of musical clutter. In "Brother Blood", the call of a lonely saxophone echoes in the distance while conga drums and a minimalist bass line take the middle ground. The harmonies are spun to perfection, but it is rhythms such as the in-the-pocket Southern funk of "Brother Jake" that galvanise the ear, bringing to mind the work of Art and Cyril's former group, the Meters.

As may already have become apparent, the brother/family theme is just a little over-represented. The album ends with two Neville-ised oddities: a light harmony vocal arrangement of Junior

Parker's "Mystery Train", the song which Elvis Presley took to the top of the *Billboard* country chart in 1955, and a gently lilting treatment of "Bird on a Wire" with Aaron Neville's angelic falsetto locating the melody at least a couple of octaves higher than Leonard Cohen's original.

Elton John's No 1 single "Sacrifice"/"Healing Hands" was produced by Chris Thomas, not Don Was as stated in this column on July 13. My apologies to all concerned.

DAVID SINCLAIR

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 40 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

ELVIS PRESLEY



King: Elvis Presley

Unquestionably the greatest rock 'n' roll star of them all, Elvis Presley was also one of the most prolific. For every exceptional song he bequeathed, there are at least six mediocrities, for every Jailhouse Rock or King Creole, a dozen embarrassing movie duets, for every essential album, an alarming quotient of dross. The pickiest pundits argue that Presley never bettered his first recordings, made between July 1954 and November 1955, in Sam Phillips's Sun Studios in Memphis. This was the period when the colossal raw talent of this supreme hillbilly punk was first harnessed to an innovative distillation of black, white and blues styles so vibrant that it was eventually to shift the world of popular music on its axis. The Elvis Presley Sun Collection, issued in 1975, houses all the classics: "Mystery Train", "Good Rockin' Tonight", "Blue Moon of Kentucky" and Presley's first single, a souped-up version of Arthur Crudup's "That's All Right Mama" that highlights his raucous yet lazy delivery. Phillips sold Presley's contract to RCA, and in March 1956 "Heartbreak Hotel" entered the American pop charts.

Records – Volume 2 (1980), it was digitally remastered and re-issued in America to tie in with what would have been Presley's fiftieth birthday in 1985. Also re-released then was Elvis Presley (1956), which incorporates five of the Sun-era songs and is said to be the first album in history certified to have sold a million copies. Presley's *All Time Greatest Hits* (1967), a double album comprising 45 of Presley's biggest hits, is probably the most comprehensive of the compilations available.

NEXT WEEK: The Pretenders, Prince

CRITICS' CHOICE: ROCK, JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC

ROCK

BIG COUNTRY: Big Country ended the Eighties in decline but, thanks to the timely release of a greatest hits collection, *Through a Big Country*, a shaky condition has been stabilised. Their romantic themes and galloping anthems still hold powerful sway over a live audience.

International 2, 210 Plymouth Grove, Manchester (051 273 8834) tomorrow, 8pm, £10. St Davids Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236) Sun, 7.30pm. £8. £10. Dome, Doncaster Leisure Park, Bawtry Road (0322 370088) Tues, 7.30pm. £9. Corn Exchange, Wheeler Street, Cambridge (0223 357851) Wed, 7.30pm, £10.

ENERGY PART II: Rave follow-up to "ENERGY, The Live Dance Concept" which attracted 11,000 people to London Arena last April. This one is headlined by the Rebel MC and features live performances from D. Shake, LFO, West Bam, Together, Mr Monday, Kicking Back With The Taxman, and BBG, along with many DJs. Dance platforms, but strictly no seating, as the senses are dealt a six-hour pounding by lasers, lightshows, projections and an 85,000-watt sound system.

THE WONDER STUFF: Scruffy anti-heroes from Slough, who combine high-octane psychedelia with a dance-floor beat and a wacky fission of Black Country rockability. The group has found a place in the nation's charts and hearts with such unforgettable songs as "It's Yer Money I'm After Baby" as well as their improbably successful album, *Kipp*.

Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (041 225 4679) Wed, 7.30pm, £7.60.

DAVID BOWIE: A reprise of the no-frills, greatest-hits. Sound and Vision tour, which has been rather unfairly criticised as old hat. With a sharp, minimal band led by guitarist Adrian Belfrage, Bowie pulls few stunts, electing instead to play a straight succession of brilliant songs. Support at Milton Keynes from Gene Loves Jezebel and The Men They Couldn't Hang; and at Manchester from James (see below). **Milton Keynes Bowl** (071 587 1414) tomorrow, Sun, 5.30pm, £22. **Manchester City Football Ground,** Maine Road (061 273 3775) Tues, 5.30pm, £18.50.

JAMES: Still basking in the glow of recent chart successes with "How Was It For You" and the parent album, *Gold Mother*, James daily balances the modish Mancunian indie-band trails of hair and carelessness in roughly equal measure. The group's calling card is a bouncy brand of pop-rock clearly inspired by the music of the Sixties, but nevertheless hair to the vaguely listless mood that has hung over pop since the tail end of the Eighties. **Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens, Exchange Street, Blackpool** (0253 27766) tonight, tomorrow 7.30pm, £7 (or £12 weekend tickets).

THE SOUP DRAGONS: The name betrays the Glaswegians' angry indie-guitar band origins, even though they have reinvented themselves as a sub-Mancunian dance-pop outfit with their rather lame interpretation of the old Jagger-Richards curiosity, "I'm Free", currently at No 8 in the chart. **The Cresset, Rightwell, Breton Centre, Feilabrough** (0733 265705) tonight, 7.30pm, £5. **Town & Country,** 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 0303) Sun, 7pm, £6.

DAVID SINCLAIR

JAZZ

ONE MAN AND HIS SAX: The John Harle Band plays arrangements of pieces by Ellington, Chick Corea, Michael Nyman, Ravel and Bartók, among others.

British Telecom Meetings Proms, Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh (0800 565789) tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50-£8.50.

IRAKERE: Always a crowd-puller, Chucho Valdez's scintillating Afro-Latin band is in residence for the rest of the

month. Support this week from Steve White's "A Certain Kind of Freedom," Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Friar St, London W1 (071 439 0747) 9.30pm, nightly except Sun, £10 (members £2), Fri-Sat £12 (members £2).

LONDON DOCKLANDS FESTIVAL: The main jazz attraction is an all-day concert by performers associated with the Jazz Cafe. The ubiquitous Steve Williamson tops the bill ahead of The Tommy Chase Band, Trevor Watts's Moore Music Drum Orchestra and the Anita Kelsey Band. **Festival Big Top, Surrey Quays,** tomorrow, noon-8pm, free.

SCOTT HAMILTON: A melodic improviser in the Coleman Hawkins mould, the young American saxophonist continues his extensive tour.

Bluff's Head, 373 Lonsdale Rd, London SW13 (081 876 5241) tomorrow, 8.30pm, Sunday, noon-2.30pm.

SAXOPHONE PARTY: A celebration of the 150th anniversary of the invention of M. Sax's saxophone. Older players such as Peter King, Ronnie Ross and the aforementioned John Harle are joined by more fashionable names, including Steve Williamson, Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (071 638 8891) Mon, 7.45pm, £4-£18.

YAMA PURIM: Modern jazz, bossa nova and samba from the Brazilian singer, sister of Flora Purim. **Bass Clef,** 35 Coronet St, London N1 (071 729 2476) Tue-Sun 12.9pm, Sun & Tue £5, Wed & Thur £5.50, Fri & Sat £6.50.

BOBBY WELLINS: Reliable all-purpose top saxophonist, leading a quintet featuring Jess Hall (tenor sax), Nikki Iles (keyboards), Gary Cusack (bass) and Tony Faulkner (drums). **Main foyer, Haymarket Theatre, Belgrave Gate, Leicester** (0533 439797) Tue, 9.45pm, £3.

CLIVE DAVIS

WORLD MUSIC

ISLAND TO ISLAND: Last two nights of the most extensive festival of Balinese and Javanese music, dance and theatre to be held in this country (see review, page 16). Tonight is Javanese night, tomorrow night Balinese, with a finale of an all-night performance of the Javanese Wayang Kulit puppet theatre. **South Bank Centre, London, SE1** (071-928 8800). Tonight and tomorrow, seats £4-£12.

HASSE WALLI: Senegalese mbalax group currently based in Finland. **Bass Clef, Coronet Street, London, N1** (071-729 2476) Tomorrow, 8.30pm, £8.50.

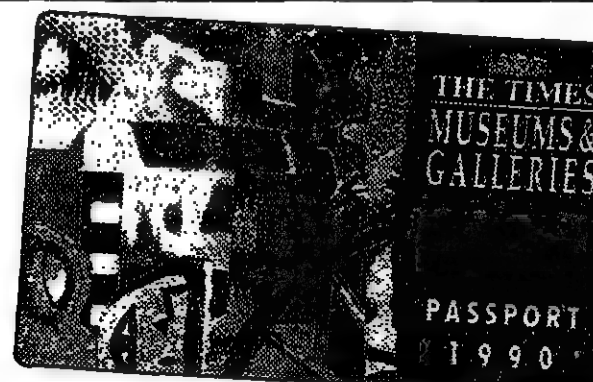
RUMILAJA: Bolivian band specialising in Andean panpipe music, as well as arrangements of music by Latin American composers. **Ronnie Scott's, Firth Street, London, W1** (071-439 0747) Sun, 8pm, £6.

JIMMY KATUMBA AND THE EBONYs: Entertaining Ugandan group that combines traditional dances with church choir influences and soulful guitar. **Civic Hall, Totnes, Devon** (0803 863073), Wed, 8pm, £5.50.

TAPIA AND LETURIA: Basque melodeon and tambourine duo from Euzkadi, sharing the bill with vocalist Amaia Zubina. **Willesden Green Library Centre, High Road, London, NW10** (081-451 0294), Tonight, 8.30pm, £4.

T.V. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Vocalist from Madras who originally studied percussion but now sings in both Carnatic and Hindustani styles. **Bhavani Centre, Castletown Road, London, W14** (071-381 3086), Tomorrow, 7pm, £3.50-£7.50.

DAVID TOOP



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Show of Southern spirit



Janis Kelly (left), Sally Burgess and Karla Burns in *Show Boat*

MUSICALS

Show Boat

Palladium

IF TOLSTOY had written a musical, he might have produced something like *Show Boat*. Edna Ferber's epic novel attracted Kern and Hammerstein precisely because of its episodic quality. A decade slips by during a dance routine; or the story shifts from Mississippi to Chicago during a single reprise. Ten lives are intertwined through an ingenious web of contrived coincidence, and the show's kaleidoscope of changing musical fashions charts the passing of 40 years as surely as a calendar.

More important still, *Show Boat* aspires to a Tolstoy-like sense of mission. Here is a chronicle not simply of individual destinies, but of a nation. That gave Kern and Hammerstein the courage and vision to nail the Big Lie at the cotton-pickin' heart of the Deep South. Negro aspirations, negro grievances, negro humiliation: these are not exactly central to *Show Boat*'s course, but they are at least treated with dignity and humility by the white authors.

Show Boat is more unsatisfactory than enthusiastic historians of the American musical admit. Much of its action is hampered by operetta conventions; some verbal gags must have been old when the Mississippi was young; its final half-hour cranks up to a happy ending with exultating ponderousness; and its central tragic figure, Julie, disappears from the story for too long, so that her degeneration from self-possessed charmer to sluttish alcoholic is left to the audience's imagination.

Yet with just one song, "O! Man River", Kern and Hammerstein created something so truthful that the time and place of its original context is transcended. It speaks as directly to today's audiences as to 1927 America. "I'm tired of living, and scared of dying" — that line alone lifts *Show Boat* well above the frivolous flippancy of Viennese operetta.

Jan Judson's cunningly paced and stylish Opera North/RSC production has already been warmly welcomed in Leeds and Stratford, and now comes to London for the summer. Its strengths are dramatic fluidity (big, evocative slide in and out quickly and quietly); Lindsay Dolan's excellent choreography, which is energetic without ever stepping out of period; and considerable musical finesse. Moreover, the orchestra, under Wyn Davies, is fuller and finer than the usual West End band.

What gives Judson's production its heart and soul, however, are some outstanding solo performances. Karla Burns's Queenie is a classic interpretation, a dynamo of a dumpling with enough personality to light up a whole fleet of show boats. Bruce Hubbard gives the best interpretation of "O! Man River" since Paul Robeson, and projects something extra as well: an over anger that eludes the saintly Robeson. As Julie, Sally Burgess offers a slurred, degenerate and broken performance of "Bill" that is genuinely affecting. Janis Kelly presents a strongly sung Magnolia. Geoffrey Hughes is an effective, if slightly over-the-top, Captain Andy, and Peter Savage cuts a suitably dashing figure as the gambler Gaylord. His singing, too, is well above normal West End standards.

RICHARD MORRISON

DANCE

The Planets

Covent Garden

DESIGNS eclipsed choreography in two of the three new works given by the Royal Ballet on Wednesday night, in spite of a mishap to the hydraulic working of Ralph Koltai's settings for *The Planets* which necessitated an unscheduled 25-minute break.

Even with that, the array of spheres, circles and rings almost constantly on the move makes this a spectacular production. Sue Blane's costumes are splendid, too, whether transforming all the women into amorphous creatures from outer space for "Neptune" or presenting Bryony Brind as a Venus whose body looks like jewels on bare flesh. Brind has the best of the dancing, too — except,

perhaps, for the jolly folk team in the movement *Hoist Carthage* by David Bintley.

It is as much Holst's fault as Bintley's that I had the impression of having seen seven short ballets one after the other. Unlike *Pavane*, which he found a way to unite separate pieces of music into a larger whole, Bintley's *Planets* goes just for the contrast of mood.

The liveliest number is "Uranus", where the dancers magically produce table tennis balls from their mouths and are eventually overwhelmed by the disintegration of the beautiful curtain of hanging globes. Blane has given this scene something of the mad fantasy of her recent *ENO Love of Three Oranges*; and perhaps there was an operatic allusion in "Mars" too: a kind of carry-over from the Polovian Dances Bintley nearly choreographed for Covent Garden.

minor humiliations: having ties removed, being sprayed with water and, more amusingly, being tied up with the person in the next seat.

I could not help feeling, though, that much of the subversion was contrived, the risk unduly limited. An exception was when another trusting character was led on to the stage and given a lion bonnet. He looked quizzical when a clown acting as ringmaster cracked his whip and made him stretch out a paw; the look turned to resigned panic when they brought on a flaming hoop stuck with knives.

On the whole, the fare on offer is staple circus routine: trapeze, clowning, acrobatics, all choreographed to the loud, mainly rock-inspired music of Benoit Juras's five-man band. The rhythmic gymnastics most gracefully performed with hoops and ribbons by Youlia Moudjievna and Tzvetomira Filipova stood out, and the astonishing oral juggling of Frédéric Zippelstein.

But only one moment matched the wit and imagination of Jean-Baptiste Thierce and Victoria, Chaplin's *Cirque Imaginaire*: that

For *Enclosure*, Stephen Measha provided William Tuckett (as in their recent *Game at Sadler's Wells*) with a sinister enclosed room, this time a waiting hall surrounded by doors numbered in no logical sequence. Kafka and Orwell are cited in the programme note as antecedents for the action and Tuckett gets his cast to act out the clichés of victims of unseen authority with enthusiasm.

Dana Fouras is the one who has no idea what is happening to her; she goes at her steps with an energy that largely hides how conventional they are. Philip Broomhead gets away from his usual run of roles, as a convincing thug roughing her up for no apparent reason, and everyone else looks appropriately doomed and despairing. Berg's *Lyric Suite*, accompanies the action.

After these two pieces, it was clever of Kenneth MacMillan to use a stage bare except for a grand

piano to present his new duet introducing Irak Mukhamedov to the Royal Ballet. The company's second ex-Bolshoi star gives every sign of making the leap from Russian to British choreography as successfully as Violetta Prokhorova did years ago. The duet is called *Farwell* and shows a sailor parting from a woman with passionate reluctance on both sides. Part of a piano romance and a piano arrangement of a song by Philip Gammon provide a suitably yearning and tempestuous accompaniment. MacMillan has resisted any temptation to make excessive use of Mukhamedov's ability to undertake leaps. Instead, his enormous leaps are used to suggest forceful emotion which is well conveyed also by Darcey Bussell as the woman left behind. An auspicious beginning to a new era.

JOHN PECTIVAL



Playing with wit and imagination: Balthazar the Clown

was when Balthazar the Clown came on with a spider's web stretched inside a frame, proceeded to play it like an electric

guitar, admitted the deception, then turned into a buzzing, trapped bluebird.

HARRY EYRES

NEW RELEASES

KILL ME AGAIN (1989) Low-key but polished little thriller, with Joanne Whalley-Kilmer as a small-time crook who grabs some Mafia cash and has a detective (played by Val Kilmer) to follow her. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

SPACED INVADERS (PG) The predictable adventures of time-traveling Martians land on Earth in a futuristic, low-budget, low-key sci-fi comedy. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

WILD ORCHID (1989) Barbra Streisand, as a wealthy woman, has a love affair with a handsome man (played by Michael Douglas). Director: James Lapine. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY (1989) A comedy about a man who goes to a foreign country and finds out that he is not the only one who is not a native. Director: James Lapine. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) on release across the country.

CINEMA PARADISE (PG) Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema, an homage to the lost art of the movies. Director: Giuseppe Tornatore. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS (15) Woody Allen's engaging portrait of a man's crimes and misdemeanors. Director: Woody Allen. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

CRY-BABY (12) John Waters' irreverent musical-comedy satire to the juvenile delinquency of the 1950s. Director: John Waters. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

DICK TRACY (PG) The blockbuster of the year — a dazzling look at, through director John Dahl, a detective who is a man of the future. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

7.45pm Running time: 2hrs 30mins. In repertory.

KING LEAR. Swan Co. in Deborah Warner's ambitious production, with Ian McKellen and David Bradley. National Theatre, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (071-439 1527). Undergound: SWR, Tottenham, 7.45pm, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

MAN OF THE MOMENT. Masterly comedy by Ayckbourn, good music and on the stage. Swan Co. in Deborah Warner's ambitious production, with Ian McKellen and David Bradley. National Theatre, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (071-439 1527). Undergound: SWR, Tottenham, 7.45pm, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

MUCH AD ABOUT NOTHING. Was acted off and on, and witty repartee in otherwise serious production. Swan Co. in Deborah Warner's ambitious production, with Ian McKellen and David Bradley. National Theatre, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (071-439 1527). Undergound: SWR, Tottenham, 7.45pm, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

MOTHER COURAGE. Glorious and powerful production. Swan Co. in Deborah Warner's ambitious production, with Ian McKellen and David Bradley. National Theatre, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (071-439 1527). Undergound: SWR, Tottenham, 7.45pm, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

PERICLES. Rob Edwards and Susan Swales in a fresh production of the bard's story. Swan Co. in Deborah Warner's ambitious production, with Ian McKellen and David Bradley. National Theatre, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (071-439 1527). Undergound: SWR, Tottenham, 7.45pm, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

REMEMBRANCE. Fine performance by Norman Foster in Deborah Warner's elegant comedy on a vanished Trinidad. Swan Co. in Deborah Warner's ambitious production, with Ian McKellen and David Bradley. National Theatre, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (071-439 1527). Undergound: SWR, Tottenham, 7.45pm, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

RACING DEMON. David Hare's award-winning play about the church drama. Swan Co. in Deborah Warner's ambitious production, with Ian McKellen and David Bradley. National Theatre, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (071-439 1527). Undergound: SWR, Tottenham, 7.45pm, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

RETURN TO THE FOREBIDDEN. Playwright: Hare. In repertory. Swan Co. in Deborah Warner's ambitious production, with Ian McKellen and David Bradley. National Theatre, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (071-439 1527). Undergound: SWR, Tottenham, 7.45pm, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY (1989) A comedy about a man who goes to a foreign country and finds out that he is not the only one who is not a native. Director: James Lapine. Cannon: Haymarket (071-439 1527).

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● SPORT 32-36

BUSINESS

FRIDAY AUGUST 3 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

ISE bans dealings with Kuwaitis after asset freeze

KIO notified stakes in UK companies

Company	Stake (%)
Barry Wehmiller Int'l	14.50
Bradstock Group	13.84
British Petroleum	7.76
Dalyn Packaging	8.04
Garmore Investments	5.04
Great Western Res	8.14
Hogg Group	5.73
Hogg Robinson plc	11.28
Midland Bank	10.50
Mount Charlotte Inv	10.10
New London	5.70
Newmarket Venture Cap	20.19
Rosehaugh	5.10
Saltire Insurance Inv	14.33
Triplex Lloyd	8.20
Adams & Co	5.00
Dewey Warren Hldgs	21.45
G.T. Investment	7.70
Second Market Inv Co	10.00

* Held by Kuwait Investment Authority

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR
THE International Stock Exchange has ordered the cancellation of dealings that were completed yesterday involving the Kuwait government and its residents.

The move follows a government freeze on Kuwaiti assets in the wake of the Iraqi invasion. The ISE warned members firms to undertake no further dealings on behalf of Kuwaitis.

The Bank of England will enforce the government's decision to freeze an estimated \$15 billion of Kuwait's assets. Last night, the Bank was working on detailed instructions for all British financial institutions on future dealings with Kuwaitis. The government's statutory instrument, passed under the Emergency Powers Act 1964, forbids the release of any money, gold or securities to the government or any resident of Kuwait.

The Treasury, with the Bank acting as an

agent, will allow exceptions to ensure expatriate Kuwaitis still have access to their funds. Even so, the order will all but close down business at the National Bank of Kuwait and the Commercial Bank of Kuwait. Both have branches in the City. Britain's banks have also been hit by the American order freezing Kuwait's and Iraq's assets.

All dollar clearing from London goes through the United States, so most banks completing dollar transactions for the two countries will have them stopped. This happened on previous occasions when Washington froze Iran's and Libya's assets.

The freezing of Kuwait Investment Office assets is a blow to the City for the office ranked among the largest providers of fees and commissions.

However, the swift moves by the British and American governments to prevent

Iraqi seizure of Kuwait's overseas holdings come at a time when London is losing its key role in the Gulf state's investment strategy.

For years the bulk of Kuwait's surplus petrodollars were channelled into long-term assets through London. The City's expertise in international investment and Kuwait's close political links with Britain made London a natural choice. In the mid-1970s, Britain moved to secure the sterling assets held in London by states such as Kuwait and Brunei. Their tax-exempt status as sovereign investors was formalised and secured by allowing them to deal through a Bank of England nominee company.

Like all Opec members, Kuwait generated vast oil revenue surpluses during the two oil crises at the beginning and end of the 1970s when prices soared to almost \$30 a barrel. However, unlike other Opec

producers, Kuwait made a serious effort to turn those surpluses into long-term assets rather than spend them on attempts to industrialise its deserts.

The move paid off handsomely. Kuwait has been earning half of its income from its investments, which earlier this year totalled some \$100 billion. Around two-thirds has been set aside in a reserve fund for future generations of Kuwaitis when oil reserves will have been depleted. Most of this has been managed by the KIO.

During the past 15 years the KIO has developed a reputation as a conservative, highly secretive player of the London market, taking a long-term view for the bulk of its investments, but occasionally gambling for large short-term gains. The KIO surfaced into public gaze only when necessary, such as the purchase of the St Martins property company during 1974. St Martins has been the principal

Kuwait property vehicle. While individual Arab investors have limited their investments to the West End, St Martins has developments all over Britain and currently has projects under construction in Coventry, Swindon and Newcastle.

However, its best-known and biggest project has been the redevelopment of the 27-acre site on the south bank of the River Thames between London Bridge and Tower Bridge.

As Kuwait's investments grew larger, its operations became bolder, leading to a huge political row over the purchase of a 22 per cent stake in BP in the wake of the government sale of its remaining holding in 1987.

The sale took place after the stock market crash of 1987 and heavy Kuwaiti buying of BP stock enabled the government to avoid an expensive and highly embarrassing buy-back of its own shares.

Dealers expect \$25 oil price on Iraqi move

By MARTIN BARROW

INTERNATIONAL oil prices surged to \$24 a barrel, a four-year high, in expectation of disruption to crude supplies from the Middle East, which accounts for 25 per cent of world production.

With Kuwaiti oil facilities shut, September Brent in London climbed almost \$4 from Wednesday's \$20.13 close as dealers took positions before what threatened to become the worst oil crisis since the 1970s. Prices later softened to \$22.70 as forward buyers took profits.

In New York, the September futures contract for petrol-rich light American crude opened \$1.96 higher at \$23.50. Petrol prices rose sharply on the Rotterdam spot market, trading just below \$300 a tonne, against an overnight price of \$263, and putting British petrol retailers under pressure. Motorists are being warned to expect an increase of between 10p and 15p within the next three days unless tension in the Gulf dissipates.

Energy analysts speculated

on further increases in oil prices, with \$25 a barrel emerging as a benchmark for the fourth quarter before the build-up of stocks in Western Europe for the winter.

"What Opec has not been able to achieve in four years, Saddam has achieved in a matter of days," said Chris Perry, an analyst at Gira-Zentrale Gilbert Elliot.

Alan Marshall of Nomura said: "We all became complacent about the Middle East."

Although oil stocks in industrial nations have risen to about 99 days of forward supply, there are variations. Stocks in America, which is heavily dependent on Middle East oil, exceed 275 days.

Mr Perry said: "People are now waiting for the next move. But prices have broken new ground and it is difficult to see them dropping back from these levels."

The closure of Kuwait's oilfields has effectively stripped

conflict in the Gulf and the possible shutdown of oilfields in Iraq would result in further increases in the price of crude.

The rise in prices of grade petrol in Rotterdam, with sterling's weakness against a revitalised dollar, implies another increase in the petrol price, taking the average cost of four-star to £22.4 a gallon.

Further uncertainty was caused by a 24-hour shutdown in the North Sea by oil workers protesting at safety measures on oil rigs. North Sea operators expect weeks of industrial unrest, which will affect production. North Sea output has fallen from 2 million barrels a day to 1.85 million.

Disruption in the Gulf has more severe repercussions for America and Japan, however. American imports from the Middle East average 6 million barrels a day, about 54 per cent of its daily consumption, including 500,000 bpd from Iraq. Japan meets between 60 and 70 per cent of its requirements from the Middle East.

Leading article, page 11



Setting a new benchmark in crude oil prices: dealers at London's International Petroleum Exchange yesterday

Pound loses 'petro' status

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE dollar, "safe haven" currency in times of unrest, was the biggest gainer on the foreign exchange markets, rising sharply, before dealers had second thoughts. Gold benefited too from its historic role as a secure store of value, but it suffered from profit-taking.

Share prices fell back. The FTSE-100 closed down 34.5 points, at 2,304.5, after Wall

Street, where investors moved into gold and oil, had opened sharply lower amid fears of fresh inflationary pressure.

The dollar closed in London more than half a penny stronger against the mark at DM1.9980 and nearly three yen higher at ¥150.00, reflecting fears about Japan's heavy dependency on oil imports.

It gained against the pound

too, finishing nearly a half a cent lower at \$1.8498.

The pound appeared to have lost the "petro-currency" status it enjoyed due to North Sea oil. Sterling ended unchanged at 93.9 on its trade-weighted index despite a 15 per cent jump in oil prices.

Gold rose by \$13.25 to \$386.50 an ounce in response to Kuwait developments, but closed in London only \$5.50 higher at \$378.75.

Washington's signal that it did not plan any military intervention in Kuwait helped to fuel profit-taking on the dollar price. A White House statement forecasting a significant drop in long-term American interest rates also put downward pressure on the dollar.

Markets, page 24

Growth in UK export to Kuwait

By DEREK HARRIS

DIRECT involvement in the Kuwait economy by British industrial companies has declined since the days of the construction boom, but British exports to Kuwait have this year been showing signs of growth.

Last year, British exports to Kuwait stood at £229 million compared with £238 million the year before. Electrical machinery accounted for £76.8 million of the exports, pharmaceuticals and chemicals another £49.7 million, with tobacco amounting to £14 million. In the first six months of this year exports to Kuwait rose 38 per cent on annual comparison to £148 million.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8498 (-0.0052)
W German mark 2.9507 (-0.0034)
Exchange index 93.9 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1811.4 (-41.4)
FT-SE 100 2304.5 (-34.5)
New York Dow Jones 2866.09 (-33.17)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 30245.18 (-592.81)
Closing Prices ... Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month interest rate 15.14%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury Bill 7.37-7.39%
30-year bonds 103.12-103.14

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£/\$ 1.8498
£/DM 2.9507
£/Sfr 2.5057
£/FF 16.8818
£/Yen 149.36
£/Indo 50.9
£/ECU 16.93651
£/ECU 14.34821

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$386.50 pm \$380.70
close \$378.50-379.50 (£205.25-205.75)
New York: Comex \$379.30-379.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$22.25/bbl (\$20.15)
Dollars latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Buys	Sells
Australia \$ 2.46	2.30
Austria Sch 21.62	21.30
Belgium Fr 63.70	63.70
Canada \$ 2.205	2.085
Denmark Kr 11.11	11.11
France Fr 10.34	9.74
Germany DM 2.36	2.36
Greece Dr 207	207
Hong Kong \$ 14.90	14.90
Ireland P 26.20	26.20
Italy Lit 2036	2036
Japan Yen 136	136
Netherlands Gld 2.20	2.20
Norway Nkr 4.76	4.76
Portugal Esc 200	200
South Africa Rd 168.50	168.50
Spain Ptas 166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr 11.22	11.22
Switzerland Fr 2.05	2.05
Turkey Lira 20.35	20.35
USA \$ 1.85	1.85
Yugoslavia Dnr 25.00	25.00

Rates for travel or remittance bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 126.7 (June)

***** RK

Midland to cut 4,000 jobs after 'unacceptable' profit

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND Bank is axing 4,000 jobs and has ordered an urgent restructuring of its operations after it reported "clearly unacceptable" pre-tax profits of £36 million for the first half of the year.

Sir Kit McMahon, chairman, stated his position on achieving the job cuts and other rationalisations throughout the group by the end of next year.

"I have made a strong commitment on a firm date," he said. "I have nailed my colours to the mast."

He also confirmed the sale of Forward Trust, the leasing division, to prop up capital reserves. Forward, which has a £4.26 billion loan book and 2,000 employees, is expected to raise up to £500 million.

Midland also provided evidence that a merger with the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is imminent. The bank has hired Brunswick, a public relations agency, because its merchant bankers have insisted on external publicity advisers during the deal.

"Good progress has been made in discussions on a closer association with Hongkong Bank and I am pleased



McMahon: deadline set

with what has been achieved so far," Sir Kit said.

The bank's profits were £100 million below the most pessimistic forecasts in the City, though they represented a recovery on last year's first-half losses of £531 million. These, however, were only made after an exceptional £846 million provision against Third World debts.

Before exceptional items, profits fell by three quarters to £74 million. This year there is a £38 million exceptional provision to cover the restructuring.

The problems have forced the bank to keep its interim dividend unchanged at 7.3p.

Even this caused a £36 million drain on reserves.

The bank's earnings have been squeezed from all sides. Losses in the bank's treasury book continued and cost an estimated £60 million. This, combined with a switch to interest-bearing accounts and lower interest payments from Latin America, left net interest income 13 per cent down at £817 million.

Operating costs by contrast rose a tenth to £1.18 billion. Much of this was due to the launch of Firstdirect, the telephone banking service, and Midland's new district service centres, which handle the branches' paperwork. Bad debt provisions, excluding the Third World, rose 160 per cent to £234 million. Of these, £54 million came from Midland Montagu, the merchant banking arm, and included a write-off on British & Commonwealth, the collapsed financial services group.

The job cuts are a net figure. Sir Kit said Midland would shed 1,000 by the end of the year, and the other 3,000 in 1991. Some 450 have already come from the closure of the New York primary dealer and the sale of Handelsfinanz bank in Switzerland.

Temper, page 22

HK merger still on the cards

From LULU YU
IN HONG KONG

A MERGER between Midland Bank and the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is set to go ahead despite the release of the British bank's disastrous interim results, according to financial analysts.

"The Midland figures are very disappointing, but I don't think they will affect the planned merger, which is a strategic decision. It will only... affect the price," said Betty Ku of Chin Tung Research International.

Many analysts say a merger is vital to Hongkong Bank's survival after 1997, when the colony reverts to China. Some predict an announcement in October, two months before a pact that freezes the Hongkong Bank's stake in Midland to 14.9 per cent expires.

Recent links between the two banks, including a worldwide merger of their 3,000 cash-dispensing machines and the partial absorption of Midland's Asian operations by the Hongkong Bank, have been taken as signs that a deal is imminent.

Any merger arrangement, however, would have to satisfy the Bank of England's concerns about foreign ownership of British clearing banks.

Allianz \$3bn buys US insurer

From JOHN DUNN IN NEW YORK

ALLIANZ, the West German insurance group, bought Fireman's Fund for \$3.3 billion yesterday as part of its aggressive expansion into the American market.

Fireman's Fund was owned by a holding group, Fund America, which was established after American Express spun off the insurance group in 1985. American Express retained a 34.2 million preferred shareholding in Fund America, while Fiat Group kept a \$300 million holding. The Fiat stake will be bought out as part of the Allianz takeover.

At December 31, Fireman's, a property and casualty insurance group, had assets of \$9.7 billion, net premium income of \$2.7 billion, loss adjusted reserves of \$5.7 billion and a premium balance of \$1.1 million. Allianz has branches in America under its own

name, but the move amounts to a significant expansion of its interests. Fireman's was ranked thirteenth among general insurance companies in America at the end of last year.

The sale of Fireman's represents the first significant takeover of an American insurance group since the takeover of the Farmers Group by BAT Industries in 1988.

After the sale, Fund America will be left with cash of \$800 million and existing investments of \$2.5 billion, which it plans to liquidate over the next few years to return money to shareholders.

Analysts were surprised by the sum paid by Allianz, which amounts to 2.3 times the book value of Fireman's. Joe Culver, an SG Warburg analyst, described the price as "remarkably rich". The commercial insurance business in America has been transformed rapidly in

recent years as the old cartel has broken down.

Industrial companies now provide their own insurance at a discount of more than 20 per cent to general insurance rates. This has turned the industry into an open-ended commodity market where high volume is needed to overcome the low margins in the business.

The sale by Fund America provides a boost to its employees, who are the major shareholders in the company. Shearson Lehman Brothers, Fund America's adviser, is working on plans to distribute the profit on the deal among Fund America's shareholders.

The same process will be used in the liquidation of the company, which has \$1.7 billion invested in equity portfolios. The liquidation is expected to be completed over a three- to five-year period.



The Board of Management of Akzo N.V. announces that on August 2, 1990 the results for the 1st half year 1990 were published. Copies of this report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents:

Barclays Bank PLC
Stock Exchange Services Department
54 Lombard Street
London EC3P 3AH
and
Midland Bank PLC
International Division
Securities Services Department
110-114 Cannon Street
London EC4N 6AA.

or at the offices of
Akzo N.V.
Velperweg 76
P.O. Box 9300
6800 SB Arnhem
The Netherlands

A summary of the results will be presented in the August 17 issue of this paper.

Arnhem, August 3, 1990

Akzo N.V., the Netherlands

UNDUP
1g lifts
173m

One of the cornerstones of the founding of the *Independent* was that no shareholder would be able to own more than 15 per cent of the shares of its corporate entity, Newspaper Publishing. The founders always recognised that the restriction, which is written into the articles of association, would be unlikely to survive beyond a stock market flotation, because the stock exchange dislikes any restrictions on share ownership. It will tolerate a golden share for a privatised company, but not for many others.

The 15 per cent limit was designed as a temporary umbrella which could be folded away when Newspaper Publishing was strong enough to move on to the stock market. If the company subsequently received a bid, then that was just one of the risks of being an adult listed company. Now, however, the limit is under siege, not because Newspaper Publishing is strong enough for a stock exchange listing, but because it has been weakened by the launch of its Sunday edition into a

falling advertising market. First, the Chicago Tribune group, one of the backers of the rival *Sunday Correspondent*, asked for the limit to be set aside so they could take a significant shareholding in Newspaper Publishing in return not only for much needed extra funds, but also for delivering a takeover of the *Correspondent*. Second, Robert Maxwell, the perennial predator, has picked up approaching 10 per cent of the shares and is willing to buy more.

These two circumstances will take on significance if, as seems likely, existing shareholders are asked to put in fresh funds. Before shareholders offer more cash, they may demand from the management a near-binding timetable to take Newspaper Publishing on to the stock market, after the previous plans for flotation were grounded by the decision to launch the Sunday edition. And if existing shareholders do not get the terms they

Maxwell sits on Sunday sidelines

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

want, Newspaper Publishing could be forced to turn to new sources of finance.

Meanwhile, if the rival *Sunday Correspondent* is given the funds it requires to survive, this will add to the difficulties of Newspaper Publishing. In the current market, there is scarcely room for one new Sunday entrant, let alone two, and each of the new arrivals depends for its success on the demise of the other. That is why Newspaper Publishing attempted to divert funds from Chicago from the *Correspondent* into its own group. And it is also why Mr Maxwell is offering to put money behind the *Correspondent*. That newspaper may just survive, given enough backing, and if it

does, it will be at the expense of a further softened *Independent* group.

And there's nothing Mr Maxwell likes better than to smell the blood of a wounded quarry.

Yes Minister

The DTI's response to the outspokenly critical attack on its efforts in company regulation and insider trading is a classic Whitehall document. As is required, it silkily welcomes the committee's constructive suggestions. The white paper then notes approving comments and rejects, in *Yes Minister* style, virtually all proposals for action

the department did not have in train anyway.

This is predictable, but a pity. The committee's report was heavily coloured by widely felt outrage over the lack of any action against those so heavily criticised in the inspectors' report on House of Fraser. The white paper does not address this aspect of the report at all and John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, has now chosen to hide behind flimsy claims that it is sub judice.

Aside from that, the report took a balanced and constructive line reflected in its 34 modest and often sensible recommendations. Many seem to have been thrown out because they were not invented at No 10 Victoria Street.

The argument is that the new and hugely improved regulatory system set up in a series of measures between the 1986 Financial Services Act and the 1989 Companies Act should be given time to bed down. Yet

most of the useful recommendations relate to insider trading, on which the government plans new, more effective legislation, and inspectors' investigations, which have been relatively untouched by change for years. A civil law approach by the authorities to insider trading, as used by the SEC in the United States, should in particular be given more sympathetic attention.

Proposals to speed inspectors' reports, favour their publication, systematise follow-up action, but give better protection to those criticised, also formed a generally worthwhile package. The committee proposed, notably, that publication of inspectors' reports should only be delayed where a criminal investigation had begun before the report was complete. These ideas have fallen to Whitehall's mania for retaining discretion at all costs.

No doubt some proposals will resurface in another guise. Meanwhile, at least it seems agreed that inspectors' reports will not be censored down to unreadable recitals of facts, as the Bank of England and SIB wanted.

AMERICAN bank shares are selling at their lows for the year on Wall Street as investors focus on poor profit potential, amid a slowing American economy, after an era of excessive lending for takeovers and to the troubled commercial property market.

Banking is in a state of flux amid the planned overhaul of bank regulations and as the public attention on the savings and loan crisis has overflowed onto the banking sector.

No one expects such dramatic consequences as the \$500 billion savings and loan bail-out, but the present plight of the banks has heightened the need for the regulatory overhaul.

Bill Seidman, chairman of the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, said this week that the bank insurance fund was at its lowest level in relative terms since the depression.

The American government guarantees bank deposits from a fund to which the banks contribute at the rate of 15 cents for every \$100 in deposits.

Mr Seidman gave a warning that the fund would lose \$2 billion this year from its present level of \$13.2 billion, or 70 cents for every \$100 on deposit.

The FDIC sees a cover of \$1.25 for every \$100 as being a prudent level.

While painting the \$2 billion loss as a worst case scenario, the fund lost \$851 million last year and \$4.2 billion in 1988, its first ever losses.

The insurance fund losses imply \$6 billion in bank failures this year as the fund will receive premium income of \$3 billion and will earn another \$1 billion from its cash on hand.

This year 112 banks out of the 12,000 in America have collapsed, the same rate as in the past two years.

The American treasury department is working on an overhaul of the banking system including removing restrictions on interstate branches, the ability to underwrite securities issues and

US banking feels pinch as easy money disappears



Fund at lowest level since depression: Bill Seidman

In the five years to the end of last December real estate loans, expressed as a share of total bank loans, increased from 25 per cent to 37 per cent and their share of new loans increased by 64 per cent over the period.

Throughout the Eighties, according to James McCormick, a consultant, banks earned only between 7 per cent and 12 per cent return on equity on their loans.

It was only takeover lending fees that helped the main banks to an average return on equity ranging up to 18 per cent.

The American commercial property market now has an oversupply averaging 20 per cent that means not only is it no longer a profitable source of new lending but also that banks are risking mounting bad debts on loans made so far.

American banks are still carrying \$40 billion in Third World loans and have yet to see just how leveraged buyouts, of about \$55 billion in recent years, will work out.

With these sources of "easy money" gone, traditional areas are also disappearing. Car companies now have a larger share of the car loan market and new entrants like Sears Roebuck and AT&T are entering the credit card market.

This has been a profitable area for banks as shown by the \$600 million profit made by Citicorp, the largest bank in the world, last year.

But it is a big-volume low-margin business that means fewer banks are staying in the market.

The growth in financial markets means solid industrial companies can also issue their own paper without need to tap banks for money and in America they presently pay only an extra 0.5 per cent for their money.

The American economy grew at only 1.2 per cent in the year ended June and is hovering close to recession levels, which points to a difficult banking climate.

IF MIDLAND Bank was a drawing, it would be tempting to rub it out and start again. The bank's appalling interim results show just how difficult it will be to re-fashion this once-great financial institution.

The bad news started with the 19 per cent fall in trading profit to £363 million, and ran through to the balance sheet. Non-Third World debt provisions rose 160 per cent to £234 million, income stagnated at £1.55 billion, while operating costs rose 10 per cent. It is little wonder that Sir Kit McMahon, the chairman, felt obliged to make a profit warning in April.

Worst of all was the maintained dividend of 7.3p. Despite their many problems, the bank's shares always retained followers on income grounds. This following is now in doubt as even the unchanged dividend produced a £36 million drain on shareholders' funds.

Midland is selling off its family silver in the form of Forward Trust, the finance division, to boost its reserves. The spare capital is likely to be used to raise Third World debt provisions to the 70 per cent level which the other banks achieved six months ago.

Sir Kit and his colleagues have asked their jobs on a successful cost cutting by the end of 1991. But the 11p fall in the shares to 276p speaks

No destination for Midland

TEMPUS

volumes and a p/e ratio of 21 on profits of £200 million this year looks fully priced even for a recovery stock.

A merger with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is almost certain to interrupt the recovery anyway. Midland has gone as far as appointing external public relations advisers to handle the announcement. But Hongkong is in a commanding negotiating position and will not overpay.

The shares, a Tempus recommendation for 1990, sadly have nowhere to go.

Gold

THE days when a cracking little war would send the gold price up in leaps and bounds are over. Yesterday the price rose \$10.25 to \$383.50 an ounce in an initial burst, but lost ground to close at \$378.75, up \$5.50. If gold is to challenge \$400, there will be no rush.

London gold inched forward for two weeks as Middle East tension mounted, and followers were encouraged that it was beginning to react like a precious metal. However, buyers who recently used the harder European currencies to buy gold are only just starting to see break-even on their purchase price because of currency movements. And yesterday there was an international element of short covering as sentiment

deterred selling orders.

Gold shares remain, on balance, expensive but will inevitably move with bullion. The prospective p/e ratios in the North American market range up to over 30. In Australia, p/e ratios range between 13 and 20, though many case to single figures on forecasts that 1991 will see a stronger earnings flow for Australian gold mining companies.

The South African market still demands selectivity because all mines are under severe cost pressures, several are running at a loss, and it will need a sustained gold price of well over \$400 an ounce to put real life back into them.

Events in Kuwait have at least improved gold's expected trading bands by \$10. But the immediate test is the 200-day moving average of \$385 an ounce, and gold was shy of that last night.

TI Group

TI GROUP seems to be one of the few global engineering companies capable of moving forward in the year ahead. The reorganisation and divisional restructuring which started in 1986 is virtually complete; the geographical spread gives it only a 20 per cent exposure to Britain and the cash position is strong.

The friendly agreement

Open house at Pitchford Hall

OLIVER Colthurst, once a partner at de Zoete & Bevan and now working for Charterhouse Tiney in Shrewsbury, is extending an invitation with a difference to his old City colleagues. For after seven years of painstaking labour, he and his wife — in conjunction with the Historic Buildings Council and English Heritage — have all but completed the restoration of the Grade I listed 16th century timbered manor house he inherited from her stepfather in 1972.

And although work on Pitchford Hall, five miles due south of Shrewsbury, is not likely to be completed for another three years, the Colthursts have decided to open the magnificent timbered building to the public for the whole of this month. Officially categorised as a house of "historic and national importance" — Queen Victoria visited it as a 13-year-old princess and Prince Rupert was said to have hidden there during the Civil War — Colthurst tells me that he would very much like "to encourage some of my old City friends to make a detour and pay a visit if they are in the area."

Silent partners

DIRECTUS, the Edinburgh-based director share dealing analyst, has been checking out its statistics on Molins, the cigarette machine manufacturer, after yesterday's City Diary entry about the possible

ejection of Neil Clarke and two other directors from the board by predator Leucadia. Direcnus has discovered that until mid-June the directors of Molins owned fewer shares in their company than the board members of almost any other company quoted on the stock market. Until the beginning of June, the only director with any shares at all was Peter Greenwood, who owned 1.648. Then Leucadia's offer lapsed, leaving it with 46.85 per cent, and suddenly the directors started to invest their own hard-earned cash.

By the end of June both Michael Wright, the managing director, and William Baugh, had exercised options and retained some equity. Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson had bought 2,000 at 263p, and Clarke had bought 10,000, at the same price, giving him a profit already of £3,700 on his £26,300 investment. "It is

very unusual for directors not to have any interest in their own company," says Angus MacDonald, of Direcnus. "But the fact that they have now bought would imply that they clearly believe that the price has a lot further to go."

TI joins the jet set

TI GROUP has all but fine tuned the reorganisation it started in 1986, and is now fit and profitable enough to want to spread its international wings. Christopher Lewiston, chief executive, tells me that TI recently established an ADR facility to encourage both American investment interest and its American employees to take up shares. It will be doing its first American road-show this year. Then, in December, a listing of TI shares on the Frankfurt stock exchange is planned. Japan next? "We were advised that it would be cheaper to put all our Japanese shareholders onto a jumbo jet, fly them to Britain twice a year and tell them whatever they wanted to know rather than to seek a Tokyo stock exchange listing," Lewiston replies.

Drink in play

CORPORATE sponsorship deals are normally fairly mundane, but the agreement by a Luxembourg vodka manufacturer to sponsor fourth division Scarborough football club up to £300,000 looks like turning into something of an international incident. The problem lies with the brand name — Black Death Vodka — that was to be printed on the players' shirts, with the motto "Drink in Peace" beneath.

The Football League has objected. Geoffrey Richmond, club chairman and chairman of Ronson, the lighter group, is going to the league's Lancashire headquarters today to try to salvage both the shirts and his sponsorship deal. Meanwhile, the Luxembourg company has sent a fax to the league demanding that it withdraws its derogatory remarks.

Building bridges

PETER Holloway, a one-time Wedd Darlacher partner who left BZW in February after four years as head of market making, has resurfaced as a special adviser to the International Stock Exchange. He has been replaced at BZW by Brian Turrel. Holloway, aged 46, and a member of the Gresham Club, will work

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS											
Calls						Puts					
Symbol	Strike	Open	High	Low	Close	Symbol	Strike	Open	High	Low	Close
FT-SE 100											
Aug 12	250	110	115	110	112	Aug 12	250	110	115	110	112
Aug 15	250	110	115	110	112	Aug 15	250	110	115	110	112
Aug 18	250	110	115	110	112	Aug 18	250	110	115	110	112
Aug 21	250	110	115	110	112	Aug 21	250	110	115	110	112
Aug 24	250	110	115	110	112	Aug 24	250	110	115	110	112
Aug 27	250	110	115	110	112	Aug 27	250	110	115	110	112
Aug 30	250	110	115	110	112	Aug 30	250	110	115	110	112
Aug 31	250	110	115	110	112	Aug 31	250	110	115	110	112
FT-SE 250											
Aug 12	100	100	105	100	102	Aug 12	100	100	105	100	102
Aug 15	100	100	105	100	102	Aug 15	100	100	105	100	102
Aug 18	100	100	105	100	102	Aug 18	100	100	105	100	102
Aug 21	100	100	105	100	102	Aug 21	100	100	105	100	102
Aug 24	100	100	105	100	102	Aug 24	100	100	105	100	102
Aug 27	100	100	105	100	102	Aug 27	100	100	105	100	102
Aug 30	100	100	105	100	102	Aug 30	100	100	105	100	102
Aug 31	100	100	105	100	102	Aug 31	100	100	105	100	102

WORLD MARKET INDICES											
MSCI INDICES						ALPHA STOCKS					
Index	Value	Change	Yearly	Daily	Yearly	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
The World	667.3	-1.3	-20.9	-0.8	-10.3	-2.0	-9.7	ADT	1,488	CU	717
(free)	127.3	-0.3	-21.1	-0.9	-10.8	-2.0	-9.7	COOKSON	1,276	LOHMEYER	3,214
EAFF	1188.0	-2.2	-25.0	-1.3	-15.7	-2.8	-14.4	DAVIDSON	583	MIDWINTER	187
(free)	119.6	-2.2	-25.4	-1.4	-16.1	-2.8	-14.9	DAVIDSON	583	SMITH & N	475
Europe	719.0	-1.8	-5.5	-1.4	-1.2	-2.2	7.9	DAVIDSON	583	SK BECH	1,821
(free)	154.4	-1.8	-5.8	-1.7	-2.0	-2.2	7.9	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Nth America	470.6	0.1	-12.5	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Nordic	1549.5	-0.8	-0.4	-0.7	-7.1	-1.4	-13.7	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
(free)	247.7	-0.5	5.3	-0.4	13.0	-1.2	20.3	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Pacific	2536.6	-2.7	-38.0	-1.2	-24.1	-3.3	-28.9	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Far East	3653.3	-2.8	-36.9	-1.4	-25.0	-3.5	-27.9	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Australia	305.5	-1.5	-12.0	2.0	0.9	0.9	0.5	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Austria	1898.5	-2.1	-26.9	-1.9	-37.8	-2.7	-45.0	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Belgium	857.3	-0.2	-12.9	0.1	-7.8	-0.8	-0.6	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Canada	481.9	-1.0	-19.7	0.4	-8.8	0.3	8.4	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Denmark	1312.1	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	5.8	-0.7	-13.8	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Finland	91.5	0.6	-20.7	0.9	-15.2	-0.1	-9.4	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
(free)	131.2	0.3	-12.0	0.6	-6.0	-0.3	0.5	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
France	719.1	-2.5	-11.1	-2.3	-5.6	-3.1	1.5	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Germany	896.4	-2.0	-2.3	-1.7	5.9	-2.6	11.5	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Hong Kong	2356.8	-1.1	8.2	-1.7	20.7	-1.8	21.3	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Italy	348.7	-3.9	-9.5	-3.6	-4.3	-4.5	3.3	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Japan	3816.9	-2.9	-38.1	-1.4	-28.4	-3.6	-28.3	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Netherlands	655.1	0.7	-9.6	1.2	-2.2	0.1	3.3	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
New Zealand	83.3	-1.1	-19.2	-1.1	-7.0	-7.7	-7.7	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Norway	1594.4	-1.1	18.0	1.2	25.6	0.4	34.6	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
(free)	278.0	-1.6	19.0	1.7	27.8	0.9	35.9	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Sing/Malaysia	1905.5	-1.4	-4.4	-1.8	3.9	-2.0	9.1	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Spain	221.6	-0.3	-6.4	0.0	-3.5	-0.9	6.9	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Sweden	1737.3	-1.8	-1.0	-1.7	7.2	-2.5	13.1	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
(free)	255.2	-2.1	5.8	-1.9	14.5	-2.7	20.9	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
Switzerland	882.7	-2.3	-3.5	-1.6	-2.1	-2.9	10.2	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
(free)	132.7	-2.3	-4.8	-1.7	-3.8	-2.9	8.8	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
UK	585.9	-1.3	-4.9	-1.3	-4.9	-1.9	8.6	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211
USA	425.7	0.1	-11.9	-0.6	0.6	-0.6	0.6	DAVIDSON	583	DOUGLAS	1,211

Carol Leonard

Portfolio

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for +27 points
claimants should ring 0254-53272

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1996			Price	Gross		
high	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change	%
79	80	4 Atlantic	300	7		
100	100	200 Western	300	10		
105	105	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
110	110	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
115	115	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
120	120	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
125	125	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
130	130	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
135	135	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
140	140	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
145	145	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
150	150	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
155	155	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
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590	590	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
595	595	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
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610	610	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
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960	960	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
965	965	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
970	970	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
975	975	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
980	980	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
985	985	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
990	990	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
995	995	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20
1000	1000	100 Western	320	10	7.3	20

INSURANCE

100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
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756	24	Anglo Tex. A.	792	29	123	43	166	
757	25	Anglo Tex. B.	793	30	124	44	167	
758	26	Anglo Tex. C.	794	31	125	45	168	
759	27	Bogach & Menden	795	32	126	46	169	
760	28	Bogach & Menden	796	33	127	47	170	
761	29	Bogach & Menden	797	34	128	48	171	
762	30	Bogach & Menden	798	35	129	49	172	
763	31	Bogach & Menden	799	36	130	50	173	
764	32	Bogach & Menden	800	37	131	51	174	
765	33	Bogach & Menden	801	38	132	52	175	
766	34	Bogach & Menden	802	39	133	53	176	
767	35	Bogach & Menden	803	40	134	54	177	
768	36	Bogach & Menden	804	41	135	55	178	
769	37	Bogach & Menden	805	42	136	56	179	
770	38	Bogach & Menden	806	43	137	57	180	
771	39	Bogach & Menden	807	44	138	58	181	
772	40	Bogach & Menden	808	45	139	59	182	
773	41	Bogach & Menden	809	46	140	60	183	
774	42	Bogach & Menden	810	47	141	61	184	
775	43	Bogach & Menden	811	48	142	62	185	
776	44	Bogach & Menden	812	49	143	63	186	
777	45	Bogach & Menden	813	50	144	64	187	
778	46	Bogach & Menden	814	51	145	65	188	
779	47	Bogach & Menden	815	52	146	66	189	
780	48	Bogach & Menden	816	53	147	67	190	
781	49	Bogach & Menden	817	54	148	68	191	
782	50	Bogach & Menden	818	55	149	69	192	
783	51	Bogach & Menden	819	56	150	70	193	
784	52	Bogach & Menden	820	57	151	71	194	
785	53	Bogach & Menden	821	58	152	72	195	
786	54	Bogach & Menden	822	59	153	73	196	
787	55	Bogach & Menden	823	60	154	74	197	
788	56	Bogach & Menden	824	61	155	75	198	
789	57	Bogach & Menden	825	62	156	76	199	
790	58	Bogach & Menden	826	63	157	77	200	
791	59	Bogach & Menden	827	64	158	78	201	
792	60	Bogach & Menden	828	65	159	79	202	
793	61	Bogach & Menden	829	66	160	80	203	
794	62	Bogach & Menden	830	67	161	81	204	
795	63	Bogach & Menden	831	68	162	82	205	
796	64	Bogach & Menden	832	69	163	83	206	
797	65	Bogach & Menden	833	70	164	84	207	
798	66	Bogach & Menden	834	71	165	85	208	
799	67	Bogach & Menden	835	72	166	86	209	
800	68	Bogach & Menden	836	73	167	87	210	
801	69	Bogach & Menden	837	74	168	88	211	
802	70	Bogach & Menden	838	75	169	89	212	
803	71	Bogach & Menden	839	76	170	90	213	
804	72	Bogach & Menden	840	77	171	91	214	
805	73	Bogach & Menden	841	78	172	92	215	
806	74	Bogach & Menden	842	79	173	93	216	
807	75	Bogach & Menden	843	80	174	94	217	
808	76	Bogach & Menden	844	81	175	95	218	
809	77	Bogach & Menden	845	82	176	96	219	
810	78	Bogach & Menden	846	83	177	97	220	
811	79	Bogach & Menden	847	84	178	98	221	
812	80	Bogach & Menden	848	85	179	99	222	
813	81	Bogach & Menden	849	86	180	100	223	
814	82	Bogach & Menden	850	87	181	101	224	
815	83	Bogach & Menden	851	88	182	102	225	
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818	86	Bogach & Menden	854	91	185	105	228	
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820	88	Bogach & Menden	856	93	187	107	230	
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825	93	Bogach & Menden	861	98	192	112	235	
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827	95	Bogach & Menden	863	100	194	114	237	
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830	98	Bogach & Menden	866	103	197	117	240	
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880	148	Bogach & Menden	916	153	247	167	290	
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891	159	Bogach & Menden	927	164	258	178	301	
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900	168	Bogach & Menden	936	173	267	187	310	
901	169	Bogach & Menden	937	174	268	188	311	
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904	172	Bogach & Menden	940	177	271	191	314	
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911	179	Bogach & Menden	947	184	278	198	321	
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913	181	Bogach & Menden	949	186	280	200	323	
914	182	Bogach & Menden	950	187	281	201	324	
915	183	Bogach & Menden	951	188	282	202	325	
916	184	Bogach & Menden	952	189	283	203	326	
917	185	Bogach & Menden	953	190	284	204	327	
918	186	Bogach & Menden	954	191	285	205	328	
919	187	Bogach & Menden	955	192	286	206	329	
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921	189	Bogach & Menden	957	194	288</			

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96	225	AP, Inc.	104	108	45	123	214	112	44
97	226	AP, Inc.	105	109	46	124	215	113	45
98	227	AP, Inc.	106	110	47	125	216	114	46
99	228	AP, Inc.	107	111	48	126	217	115	47
100	229	AP, Inc.	108	112	49	127	218	116	48
101	230	AP, Inc.	109	113	50	128	219	117	49
102	231	AP, Inc.	110	114	51	129	220	118	50
103	232	AP, Inc.	111	115	52	130	221	119	51
104	233	AP, Inc.	112	116	53	131	222	120	52
105	234	AP, Inc.	113	117	54	132	223	121	53
106	235	AP, Inc.	114	118	55	133	224	122	54
107	236	AP, Inc.	115	119	56	134	225	123	55
108	237	AP, Inc.	116	120	57	135	226	124	56
109	238	AP, Inc.	117	121	58	136	227	125	57
110	239	AP, Inc.	118	122	59	137	228	126	58
111	240	AP, Inc.	119	123	60	138	229	127	59
112	241	AP, Inc.	120	124	61	139	230	128	60
113	242	AP, Inc.	121	125	62	140	231	129	61
114	243	AP, Inc.	122	126	63	141	232	130	62
115	244	AP, Inc.	123	127	64	142	233	131	63
116	245	AP, Inc.	124	128	65	143	234	132	64
117	246	AP, Inc.	125	129	66	144	235	133	65
118	247	AP, Inc.	126	130	67	145	236	134	66
119	248	AP, Inc.	127	131	68	146	237	135	67
120	249	AP, Inc.	128	132	69	147	238	136	68
121	250	AP, Inc.	129	133	70	148	239	137	69
122	251	AP, Inc.	130	134	71	149	240	138	70
123	252	AP, Inc.	131	135	72	150	241	139	71
124	253	AP, Inc.	132	136	73	151	242	140	72
125	254	AP, Inc.	133	137	74	152	243	141	73
126	255	AP, Inc.	134	138	75	153	244	142	74
127	256	AP, Inc.	135	139	76	154	245	143	75
128	257	AP, Inc.	136	140	77	155	246	144	76
129	258	AP, Inc.	137	141	78	156	247	145	77
130	259	AP, Inc.	138	142	79	157	248	146	78
131	260	AP, Inc.	139	143	80	158	249	147	79
132	261	AP, Inc.	140	144	81	159	250	148	80
133	262	AP, Inc.	141	145	82	160	251	149	81
134	263	AP, Inc.	142	146	83	161	252	150	82
135	264	AP, Inc.	143	147	84	162	253	151	83
136	265	AP, Inc.	144	148	85	163	254	152	84
137	266	AP, Inc.	145	149	86	164	255	153	85
138	267	AP, Inc.	146	150	87	165	256	154	86
139	268	AP, Inc.	147	151	88	166	257	155	87
140	269	AP, Inc.	148	152	89	167	258	156	88
141	270	AP, Inc.	149	153	90	168	259	157	89
142	271	AP, Inc.	150	154	91	169	260	158	90
143	272	AP, Inc.	151	155	92	170	261	159	91
144	273	AP, Inc.	152	156	93	171	262	160	92
145	274	AP, Inc.	153	157	94	172	263	161	93
146	275	AP, Inc.	154	158	95	173	264	162	94
147	276	AP, Inc.	155	159	96	174	265	163	95
148	277	AP, Inc.	156	160	97	175	266	164	96
149	278	AP, Inc.	157	161	98	176	267	165	97
150	279	AP, Inc.	158	162	99	177	268	166	98
151	280	AP, Inc.	159	163	100	178	269	167	99
152	281	AP, Inc.	160	164	101	179	270	168	100
153	282	AP, Inc.	161	165	102	180	271	169	101
154	283	AP, Inc.	162	166	103	181	272	170	102
155	284	AP, Inc.	163	167	104	182	273	171	103
156	285	AP, Inc.	164	168	105	183	274	172	104
157	286	AP, Inc.	165	169	106	184	275	173	105
158	287	AP, Inc.	166	170	107	185	276	174	106
159	288	AP, Inc.	167	171	108	186	277	175	107
160	289	AP, Inc.	168	172	109	187	278	176	108
161	290	AP, Inc.	169	173	110	188	279	177	109
162	291	AP, Inc.	170	174	111	189	280	178	110
163	292	AP, Inc.	171	175	112	190	281	179	111
164	293	AP, Inc.	172	176	113	191	282	180	112
165	294	AP, Inc.	173	177	114	192	283	181	113
166	295	AP, Inc.	174	178	115	193	284	182	114
167	296	AP, Inc.	175	179	116	194	285	183	115
168	297	AP, Inc.	176	180	117	195	286	184	116
169	298	AP, Inc.	177	181	118	196	287	185	117
170	299	AP, Inc.	178	182	119	197	288	186	118
171	300	AP, Inc.	179	183	120	198	289	187	119
172	301	AP, Inc.	180	184	121	199	290	188	120
173	302	AP, Inc.	181	185	122	200	291	189	121
174	303	AP, Inc.	182	186	123	201	292	190	122
175	304	AP, Inc.	183	187	124	202	293	191	123
176	305	AP, Inc.	184	188	125	203	294	192	124
177	306	AP, Inc.	185	189	126	204	295	193	125
178	307	AP, Inc.	186	190	127	205	296	194	126
179	308	AP, Inc.	187	191	128	206	297	195	127
180	309	AP, Inc.	188	192	129	207	298	196	128
181	310	AP, Inc.	189	193	130	208	299	197	129
182	311	AP, Inc.	190	194	131	209	300	198	130
183	312	AP, Inc.	191	195	132	210	301	199	131
184	313	AP, Inc.	192	196	133	211	302	200	132
185	314	AP, Inc.	193	197	134	212	303	201	133
186	315	AP, Inc.	194	198	135	213	304	202	134
187	316	AP, Inc.	195	199	136	214	305	203	135
188	317	AP, Inc.	196	200	137	215	306	204	136
189	318	AP, Inc.	197	201	138	216	307	205	137
190	319	AP, Inc.	198	202	139	217	308	206	138
191	320	AP, Inc.	199	203	140	218	309	207	139
192	321	AP, Inc.	200	204	141	219	310	208	140
193	322	AP, Inc.	201	205	142	220	311	209	141
194	323	AP, Inc.	202	206	143	221	312	210	142
195	324	AP, Inc.	203	207	144	222	313	211	143
196	325	AP, Inc.	204	208	145	223	314	212	144
197	326	AP, Inc.	205	209	146	224	315	213	145
198	327	AP, Inc.	206	210	147	225	316	214	146
199	328	AP, Inc.	207	211	148	226	317	215	147
200	329	AP, Inc.	208	212	149	227	318	216	148
201	330	AP, Inc.	209	213	150	228	319	217	149
202	331	AP, Inc.	210	214	151	229	320	218	150
203	332	AP, Inc.	211	215	152	230	321	219	151
204	333	AP, Inc.	212	216	153	231	322		

[illegible]

Ex dividend = Ex all + Foreigns dividend + Interm payment passed if Price at suspension & Dividend and does exclude a special payment - Pre-charge figures n
Foreigns earnings & Ex cover if Ex rights, a Ex corp or share price / Tax-free ... No significant case

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1986 was same at 83.9 (day's range 93.9-94.2).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for August 2

	Spot	1 month	3 months
New York	1.8940-1.8505	1.8490-1.8505	1.08-1.09
London	2.1150-2.1265	2.1290-2.1325	0.87-0.875
Stockholm	3.5200-3.5400	3.5200-3.5400	1.14-1.15
Brussels	60.49-61.03	60.49-61.03	0.75-0.76
Frankfurt	11.2745-11.3535	11.2745-11.3535	0.75-0.76
Copenhagen	1.1045-1.1055	1.1045-1.1055	0.75-0.76
Oslo	2.9482-2.9676	2.9482-2.9676	0.75-0.76
Uppsala	3.99-3.99.50	3.99-3.99.50	0.75-0.76
Stockholm	181.75-181.75	181.75-181.75	0.75-0.76
Uppsala	215.95-217.15	215.95-217.15	0.75-0.76
Doha	10.1148-11.4856	11.025-11.4781	0.75-0.76
Frankfurt	10.7945-10.8475	10.7945-10.8475	0.75-0.76
Berlin	10.7945-10.8475	10.7945-10.8475	0.75-0.76
Tokyo	270.75-275.91	270.75-275.91	0.75-0.76
Hong Kong	20.75-20.78	20.75-20.78	0.75-0.76
Zurich	2.5072-2.5312	2.5072-2.5312	0.75-0.76

Premiums = p, Discount = da.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Antigua dollar	10015.6-10078.4
Australia dollar	2.3361-2.344
Bahian dollar	2.3361-2.344
Brazil cruzeiro	128.944-129.748
Cyprus pound	0.82-0.83
Finland markka	6.925-6.928
French franc	20.292-20.3
Hong Kong dollar	14.304-14.315
Indo rupiah	31.75-32.15
Japanese yen	161.95-162.05
Malaysia ringgit	4.9715-4.9781
Maltese peseta	5.255-5.265
New Zealand dollar	1.5193-1.5264
Saudi Arabia riyal	1.475-1.476
Singapore dollar	3.2595-3.2637
South African rand	6.24-6.25
South African rand (cont.)	4.8113-4.8156
U.A.E. dirham	0/0

Source: Bankers' Rates supplied by Bankers' Rates GTS

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.5965-1.6690	Denmark	6.1150-6.1200	Italy	52.97-53.00
Singapore	1.8075-1.8288	W Germany	6.1150-6.1200	Japan	117.00-117.10
Switzerland	2.6950-2.7000	Switzerland	1.3845-1.3965	Hong Kong	7.7600-7.7670
Australia	1.5705-1.5715	France	5.5710-5.5760	Portugal	145.50-146.00
Canada	1.1515-1.1518	Japan	150.00-150.10	Austria	11.28-11.29
Sweden	6.6700-6.6750				
Norway	6.6200-6.6260				

Rates supplied by Bankers' Bank GTS and Excal.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates % Clearing Banks 15 Finance House 15K

Discount Market Loans %	
Overnight 10% 15 Week Rate 14K	
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	
Buying: 2 mths - 14 1/2% 3 mths - 14 1/2%	
Selling: 2 mths - 14 1/2% 3 mths - 14 1/2%	
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	
1 mths: 14 1/4% 3 mths: 14 1/4% 6 mths: 13 1/4% 12 mths: 13 1/4%	
Trade bills (Discount %)	
2 mths: 15 1/2% 3 mths: 15 mths: 14 1/2%	
Interbank % Overnight open 15 close 16	
1 week: 15 1/4% 1 mths: 15 1/4% 3 mths: 15 1/4% 6 mths: 14 1/2% 9 mths: 14 1/2% 12 mths: 14 1/2%	
Local Authority Deposits (%)	
2 day: 14 1/2% 7 day: 14 1/2% 1 mths: 14 1/2%	
3 mths: 14 1/2% 6 mths: 14 1/2% 12 mths: 14 1/2%	
Savings Club %	
3 mths: 14 1/2% 6 mths: 14 1/2% 12 mths: 14 1/2%	
Dollar Cds %	
1 mths: 15 1/2% 3 mths: 15 1/2% 6 mths: 15 1/2% 12 mths: 15 1/2%	
Building Society CDs (%)	
1 mths: 15 1/2% 3 mths: 15 1/2% 6 mths: 15 1/2% 12 mths: 15 1/2%	

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	1 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar	7 1/2-7 3/4	7 1/2-7 3/4	7 1/2-7 3/4	7 1/2-7 3/4
£	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4
DM	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4
French Franc	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4
Yen	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4
Swiss Franc	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4
£	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4	6 1/2-6 3/4
Yen	7 1/2-7 3/4	7 1/2-7 3/4	7 1/2-7 3/4	7 1/2-7 3/4

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

Open: \$379.00-380.00 Close: \$379.00-380.00

High: \$386.50-387.50 Low: \$377.50-378.00

GOLD COINS (Per coin, Ex VAT)

London: \$387.00-389.00 (2295.50-212.50)

Kuala Lumpur: \$387.00-389.00 (2295.50-212.50)

Singapore: \$387.00-389.00 (2295.50-212.50)

Ex dividend & Ex all forecast dividend & interim dividend &

PRECIOUS METALS
Platinum pm fnc: \$492.25 (2567.40)
Ref: 10/1/90

[illegible][illegible]

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

Continued From
Previous Page071-481 4422
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By Direction of the Secretary of State for Transport.
To be conducted by Central Motor Auctions plc.

90 AA	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AB	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AC	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AD	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AE	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AF	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AG	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AH	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AI	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AJ	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AK	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AL	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AM	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AN	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AO	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AP	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AQ	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AR	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AS	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AT	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AU	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AV	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AW	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AX	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AY	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS
90 AZ	111 BE5	40 B	12 FE	44 HH	5 JUL	200 MAJ	123 OTG	12 POE	100 SH	120 IS

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1990 MODEL
Group 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MOTORING

EDITED BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

The prancing horse rears up against Japan

Daniel Ward reports on a modern legend and (right) tests the latest Ferrari

The name of Ferrari is surrounded by glamour, an aura that goes beyond that of a mere car. To explain the myth, Ferrari has organised an exhibition entitled "L'idea Ferrari", in a once-decladated fort on a hillside above Florence.

This is a good time to remind the world that there is only one Ferrari. Honda has already challenged the Maranello sports car maker on the Grand Prix circuit with some success. Now it is launching a mid-engined sports car that looks like a Ferrari and costs just as much.

But the technology found under the bonnet of a Ferrari is not difficult for Honda, but the aura of a bright red Ferrari built by the skilled artisans of northern Italy and representing the brilliance and the foibles of the founder, Enzo Ferrari, will always count for a lot. It cannot be copied or bought.

In the grounds beneath the Forte di Belvedere, nine Ferraris are displayed in climate-controlled glass cubes, including the rare 1952 Testarossa, powered by a 300bhp V12 engine, a 250 GTO worth more than £5 million, and the 1988 Daytona, Ferrari's last front-engined car. At night, the Ferraris can be seen from the centre of Florence illuminated by spotlights in each cube.

The Turin design house of

Pininfarina has styled all but a few Ferraris since the first was made in 1946, yet the racing 250 Le Mans, with its beautifully curved aluminium panels, was among the most gorgeous handsome. It stands out even at L'idea Ferrari. Every millimetre is a testament to the skills of the panel beaters.

On display inside the exhibition are full-size drawings of many early Ferraris, including the first car drawn by the legendary Gioacchino Colombo in 1945 in coloured pencils; green was used for the engine, orange for the body.

Today, the colours have reappeared, but this time on computer screens used to style the body and design the components. There are, however, no current models at L'idea Ferrari, except for the limited production F40, another exciting celebration of the company's 40-year history.

Three Grand Prix epitomise Ferrari's commitment to racing. Britain's John Surtees won the world championship for Ferrari in 1964 in the flat 12-engined 512, devoid of the aerodynamic wings that were to come later.

Much closer in style and function are the 1.5-litre turbocharged Formula One car from 1983 and Nigel Mansell's sleek machine from last year. In this elegant machine, technology and passion find their meeting place.



Ferrari 348: Any small niggles are easily forgotten as the engine's acceleration takes effect

At the wheel of an envy machine

ROADTEST

Even people who have no interest in cars will stop and stare at a passing Ferrari. The successor to the 308/328 GTB launched in 1975 is the 348, and it is every inch a Ferrari. The 328 and 348 share the all-aluminium V8 engine, although it has been enlarged to 3.4 litres and power raised to 300bhp. They have little else in common.

The previous model had a complex tubular chassis. The new car has a more robust, pressed-steel frame and chassis welded together by robot. Behind the driver, the engine is no longer mounted transversely across the chassis, but lower and in the middle of the car to improve roadholding. Behind the engine is a compact five-speed gearbox.

Tucked inside the 17in-diameter alloy wheels are disc brakes with anti-lock control. The tyres are as wide as two or three family car tyres but there is one snag: there is no spare tyre. Faced with a flat tyre, the distressed owner has to inject a puncture sealant into the tyre in order to hobble home.

Such things are easily forgotten as you press the button to open the door — there is no handle. The dramatic-looking vents in the doors feed air to the

radiators mounted just ahead of the rear wheels. Only the yellow prancing horse emblem on the small instruments break the expanse of black leather inside. Comfortable seats and air-conditioning come in the £67,500 price; the radio does not, which is something to contemplate during the five or six year wait for delivery.

The clutch is light but the gearchange is copy-book Ferrari, which means that at low speed, the lever clunks awkwardly through the polished steel gap on the floor. Only when the engine starts to rev higher does the change become more fluid.

Go past 7000rpm in fifth gear and the 348 is heading for 170mph-plus. Do the same thing in the lower gears and the acceleration is matched to engine noise from close behind your shoulders. The Ferrari will accelerate to 60mph in about five seconds.

Compared with a 328, the new car rides more firmly. If there is a flaw, it is that the Ferrari is not the easiest car to drive fast because of the lightly weighted power steering. More demanding bends, where the driver must take firm control, see the 348 at its best.

Will a great bike be triumphant again?

After a seven-year absence, a famous British motorcycle is making a return, with a high-tech machine to take on the Japanese

TRIUMPH, the great British motorcycle, is poised for a return to the streets, after an absence of seven years. Attempts to resurrect the name have been made, but each has failed as the bike-buying public shunned the archaic-looking results, which owed more to the 1930s than to the 1990s.

This time, there will be no rebash of outdated machinery. Spearheading the rebirth are bikes that boast high-performance, technical wizardry and distinctive styling that will enable them to take the Japanese head-on.

The brainchild of the wealthy Midlands builder, John Bloor, the new-style Triumph operation will rise or fall on the success of its automated production line. Ironically, Japanese robotics form the backbone of production in the factory at Hinckley, Leicestershire. A skeleton staff will be able to keep production running 24 hours a day, producing up to 10,000 bikes each year.

Four basic models, a 90-horsepower 750cc, a 100hp 900cc, 1,000cc and 1,200cc sportsters with 125hp potential, could be launched at the Cologne motor show next month. Most models will also be offered in sports of touring trim with or without bodywork.

By keeping labour costs down, Triumph hopes to price their bikes to compete with Japanese manufacturers and under-cut other European factories such as BMW, with its quality machines.

UK and German motorcycle dealers are the first to be offered the new Triumphs and the booming bike market in Spain is next on the sales list. High distribution costs mean that north America, traditionally a good market for British machinery, will not be targeted until the bikes have proved themselves in Europe.

PAUL MYLES

ROADWISE

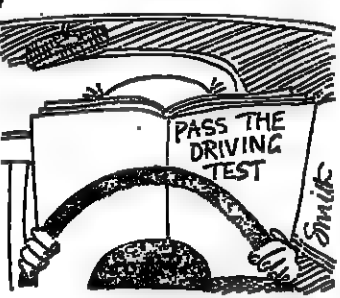
Knowing how to approach the driving test can be nerve-racking in itself. Help comes in *Pass the Driving Test*, a booklet sponsored by Vauxhall and written by Gordon Cole, a road-safety expert. The guide is easy to follow and has colour photographs and captions. Price £5.95 in bookshops.

Some of the world's finest sports cars go up for sale at the Nurburgring race weekend on August 11. Coys of Kensington says cars will include a 1965 Ford GT40, 1936 Maserati 6CM and a 1955 Mercedes 300SL "gullwing" with 15,000 miles on the odometer.

Sales may be struggling in high-interest-rate Britain, but in Japan they surged by 13.4 per cent to more than three million in the first six months, a million more than sales here will reach. Toyota increased sales by 14 per cent, Nissan 11.8 per cent and Honda 13.7 per cent.

The reputation of diesel has been rehabilitated in West Germany after last year's panic by environmentalists worried that it could be cancer-causing. Sales have recovered so well that they have risen by 22 per cent in the first half of the year.

Most drivers are now suffering from "green" overload as much conflicting advice on how



to choose an environmentally friendly car, if there is such a thing. The National Society for Clean Air is offering advice in a booklet, "Clean cars — how to choose one", price £7 including post and packaging from the society at 136 North Street, Brighton BN1 1RG.

Citroën's clever AX supermini gets a catalyst option on a new variant, the 1117X. The model has central locking, electric windows and sunroof for £2,158 (three-door car), and £2,415 (five-door) or £2,709 and £2,864 respectively with catalysts.

Exclusive optional extras are being offered to the expected 800 buyers of Toyota's new Lexus luxury model during the next year. They include a cellular telephone, with hands-free microphone, tailored mats and bar roof-rack system.



Classic Formula 1 with contending driver Valerie Stanes

VW's automatic petrol monitor may at last be coming into its own

EVERY TIME Don Stones stops his Volkswagen Polo at traffic lights, his engine cuts out, Kevin Eason writes. That is not a reason to curse, and rush to telephone a breakdown vehicle, because his car is meant to do that. It starts again as soon as he moves the gear lever from neutral to first.

The car is a Polo Classic Formel E, an attempt by VW in the early 1980s to save fuel and one that has caught the attention of some motoring environmentalists as the debate on how to make cars more efficient intensifies.

The little Formel was introduced before its time when

An old idea may pay off

economy was not exactly a watch-word in the motor industry and when motorists wanted bigger, faster cars.

The car is equipped with only three forward gears, plus one overdrive gear for cruising, to allow maximum economy from the engine.

VW used the cut-out system was a simple way of saving fuel. It turned out to be a system that

British drivers refused to trust, maybe because, after years of being let down by unreliable cars made here, they did not really believe the car would start again.

The Formel seems to work successfully for Mr Stones, a retired teacher living at Pembury in Kent, who says that the model that he and his wife, Valerie, a musician better known by her professional name of Valerie Haynes, is achieving a regular 40mpg.

VW has no plans to bring the Formel back, although it says the car has paved the way for all-round economy improvements.

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

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1987 (B) Aspi silver, blue leather, pr chiki seat, 39,000 miles 1 owner, Fullservice history, £26,000. Falcin Mercedes Benz Loughborough 0508 21112 0831 28755 Sunday

MERCEDS

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AUGUST 88 (F) Blue/black crop, 1987, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, Fullservice history, £25,000. Falcin Mercedes Benz Loughborough 0508 21112 0831 28755 Sunday

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MERCEDS-BENZ

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1987 (B) Aspi silver, blue leather, pr chiki seat, 39,000 miles 1 owner, Fullservice history, £26,000. Falcin Mercedes Benz Loughborough 0508 21112 0831 28755 Sunday

Porsche

Hexagon

NEW 500 SL 32V, 1987, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, Fullservice history, £26,000. Falcin Mercedes Benz Loughborough 0508 21112 0831 28755 Sunday

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Finding strength in isolation

The billowing sails of the Isle of Wight regatta mask a grimmer race of economics against time, a challenge England's smallest county intends to win

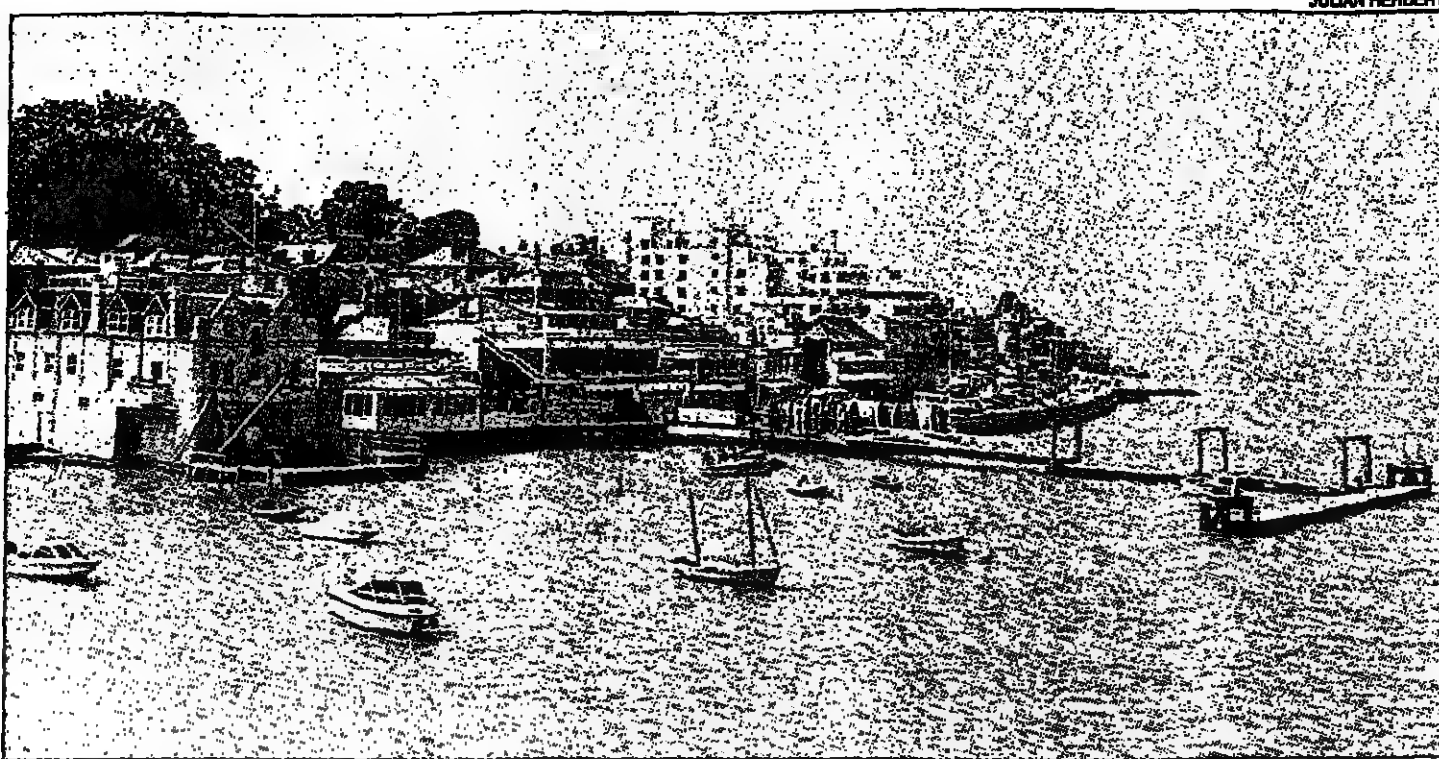
The Isle of Wight enters its second century as England's smallest county determined not to be pushed aside in the battle for business when European trade barriers are lifted in 1992.

Despite the financial disadvantages of operating on a miniature scale and surrounded by water, the island's authorities are examining ways of quickly attracting new investment and upgrading amenities. The urgency stems from a growing awareness that the sleek yachts and billowing sails of the Cowes Week sailing regatta mask a grimmer economic race against time.

The biggest challenge is to bring living standards up to par with the rest of England and Continental Europe. According to Morris Barton, the Liberal Democrat leader of the county council, the island has to attract companies that will provide jobs and encourage young people to stay on the island. To do this, wages must provide a standard of living comparable with the rest of Europe.

The determination that is needed now was displayed by the Isle of Wight community in a battle against Westminster planners 100 years ago, when elected county councils replaced the system of administration by justices of the peace. Isle of Wight residents won that battle and were given the right to elect a county council.

To retain its independence after the local government reorganisation in the 1970s, the Isle of Wight had to agree to adopt the same two-tier local authority structure as other, much larger English counties. This requires responsibility to be shared via at least two elected district or borough authorities. As a result, local administration of the island's 38,067 hectares is split between three local authorities. If the old parish councils are included, it



The calm of Cowes: a welcome sight to tourists, yet behind the carefree façade lies a community fragmented by parochial leadership

means a population of less than 130,000 (about 41 per cent of the next lowest populated county, Northumberland) has to elect 365 councillors.

According to Bernard Pratt, deputy Lieutenant and chairman of the county council, there is considerable support, across the political lines, in favour of establishing a one-tier local authority. He says the ability to "speak with one voice" has become a matter of urgency if the next strategic structure plan, which will take the island into the next century, is to be effective. The case for making the necessary legislative changes for a unitary authority were accepted by the government's Boundary Commission some years ago, but no timetable was set.

Given the unity of direction, there is a good chance of success. Enterprising islanders are internationally minded. They tend to regard exports to countries across the English Channel in the same way as business dealings with the English mainland.

The island, just two hours from central London, boasts many environmental attractions, as well as a rich cultural and historical heritage. It is for these reasons that many professionals have set up practices on the island. Similarly, many civil servants forego promotion to enjoy the environmental

and social advantages of the island. By locating business operations on the Isle of Wight, companies can offer similar "quality of living", which should help in recruiting and retaining specialists and professionals during the expected skill shortages.

The biggest casualty of the fragmented local government structure has been tourism, which, along with manufacturing and agriculture, is a plank of the island's economy. Unlike other English resorts, such as Brighton and Blackpool, there has been little municipal investment in tourist facilities by the two borough councils.

A notable exception was the county council's establishment of a network of footpaths and bridleways, which won national recognition.

A century ago, the Isle of Wight was a favourite destination of the rich and famous, who valued its mild climate and beautiful scenery as much in the winter as the summer. Today's holiday trade, however, is packed into two summer months. The effects of this high-volume, low-value holiday industry have ricocheted through the whole community. A vicious spiral of seasonal unemployment led to low wages and

inadequate investment during a period when the rest of England was becoming more prosperous.

The need to move upmarket was identified by a steering committee formed three years ago to sink rivalries between different factions and to represent local authorities and private-sector operators. Since then there has been some improvement, mainly by the private sector, at Cowes, which, along with yachting, was identified as a priority area by the steering group. A link between a steam railway and the British Rail service that connects the resorts in the south (another priority identified by the steering group) is due for completion in 1992.

There are, however, no signs of the two or three examples of "flagships with style" developments that the tourist experts also say are necessary to boost confidence. Municipal investment has been spread across many resorts, rather than concentrated in a single area.

While spending on new vessels by the three main ferry operators, Sealink, Red Funnel and Hovertravel, has been welcomed by the island after a winter when services were more than usually disrupted by gales, business confidence has been dented by the uncertain start made by Cowes Express, a rival ferry run by a group of local business people.

A co-ordinated approach to improving the economy is all the more necessary given the lukewarm response by central government to petitions that the island should be granted some form of compensation for its severance from the mainland. The case for special treatment, compiled for the Department of the Environment in a report, *An Island Apart*, was revived early this year. This shows that the local authorities must spend an extra £5 million a year, mainly on extra transport charges and on providing self-sufficient services.

Being an island, it cannot share staff and equipment needed by fire, ambulance and police services with neighbouring authorities. The island's police must be equipped to deal with the inmates of the island's three large, high-security prisons of Parkhurst, Albany and Camp Hill, which house about 1,100 prisoners. New regulations requiring inquiries into crimes committed within prisons to be heard in magistrates' courts have compelled the county council to provide new courts with increased security and to pay for 20 per cent of the cost.

Provision must also be made for tackling specific hazards, including oil and chemical pollution from shipping, flooding, coastal erosion and waste generated by the two million annual tourists.

Economic cure lies in unity

A recent survey found that living standards on the island were among the lowest in the UK

Like many island communities, the Isle of Wight's population is proud and industrious. It is therefore surprising that a recent survey found that the island's living standards have slipped far behind those of the rest of the United Kingdom. Even more alarming are the figures that identify the importance of the manufacturing sector to local prosperity and its vulnerability to the fortunes of only two international companies.

The survey, produced by Ernst & Young, the international management consultants, provides for the first time the data islanders need to make a realistic comparison with other areas in England and overseas. Previous comparisons have been blinkered by government statistics that lump together social and economic data relating the Isle of Wight with Hampshire, which is

980 people, representing between 2 and 2.5 per cent of employment and output.

The comparison is the first of three stages of a review that the Isle of Wight Development Board, in partnership with the Rural Development Commission, has commissioned the consultants to make. The second provides projections of how the island's economy will look in five and ten years' time if trends continue. The final stage, due by the end of this year, will recommend options, that it is hoped, will provide the local authorities with the basis for a strategic development plan to guide the island's economy into the 21st century.

John Lowe, chairman of the development board, says: "This need for strategic direction presents us all with a challenge to pull together. It must involve opinion-leaders and decision-makers in the first place, and, subsequently, the wider community, when the options available to the island can be presented for public consideration. Co-ordination is all the more necessary since the changes of financial help from either the government or the European Commission are remote."



John Lowe: challenge

Self-help and local determination to succeed are crucial for economic progress. The board is putting its principles into practice by producing a video that is intended to aid tourism development by illustrating the island's natural beauty history and literary associations. Planned in conjunction with the Isle of Wight tourist office, English Heritage and the National Trust, it will be ready in time for the 1991 holiday booking season. The second track will be produced in French and German, as well as English, and the board is examining the potential for other language versions.

Another board initiative is the production of a guide to manufacturers and services. This has been used as the basis for other initiatives, including a collective presentation by 60 or so island business representatives to the Esso Refinery near Southampton.

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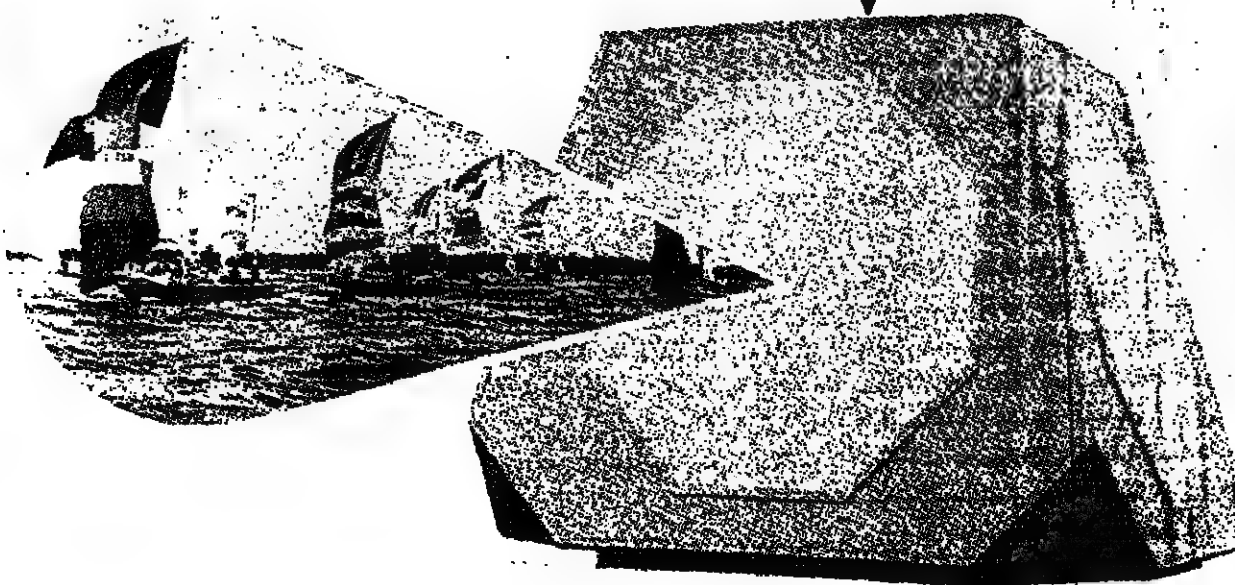
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This success increases career opportunities for professional engineers and ensures that Cowes remains one of Britain's leading electronic centres.



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The Isle of Wight was exporting manufactured products before the 16th century, when the shipyards at Cowes made vessels for Queen Elizabeth I. After the shipyards were closed, the island's council was one of the first in England to buy old industrial sites and convert them into units suitable for small companies. Many of the occupants were former employees, who carried on their trades through their own companies.

Instead of a few big yards, the modern marine industry consists of many comparatively small companies. Only one, FBM Marine, employs more than 100 people. A recent study for the Marine Industries Association shows that although they are small, the 120 or so companies engaged in this activity collectively provide more than 2,000 jobs and have an annual turnover of £100 million.

The new structure is seen as having advantages in providing flexibility and responsiveness to demand and new technologies. It also has disadvantages in visibility and marketing, as well as bulk buying of raw materials.

Across the harbour, at East Cowes, on sites occupied by the company now called Westland Aerospace, Samuel Saunders experimented in 1901 with putting petrol engines in boats. By 1912, he had

A hive of industry

The island's most recent ventures into the world of commerce are supported by a long history of manufacturing

developed the world's first successful amphibious plane. The company, which became Saunders Roe, and then the British Hovercraft Corporation, built the first successful hovercraft, the SRN1, in 1959.

Westland Aerospace, one of the two biggest employers on the island, with a work-force of about 1,500, is now designing and manufacturing advanced composite and metal aero-structures supplying leading civil aircraft makers.

The second of the two biggest private sector employers, with a work-force of about 1,300, is Siemens Plessey (formerly Plessey Radar), where morale has been boosted by the removal of uncertainties associated with protracted takeover negotiations. Roger Barnes, the operations direc-

tor, says Siemens management has handled the transition to new ownership "sensitive and professionally".

As soon as the takeover took effect, in September, an intensive familiarisation programme started that involved operators as well as management of the two companies working alongside each other. This quickly identified a complementary match of technology, products and markets and helped foster feelings of mutual respect.

Work is due to start next month on an engineering design building at Cowes at a cost of £4.5 million. Approval has also been given for a £7 million investment in a CAE/CAD workstations programme.

A world leader in the supply of sensors and systems, Siemens Plessey manufactures radar equipment for civil air-traffic control and meteorology, as well as for defence surveillance. It has more than 2,000 installations located in 100 countries.

Although cutbacks in defence spending are causing some concern, Siemens Plessey believes the markets for its products are less likely to be adversely affected than those of other equipment suppliers.

The company is well-placed to take advantage of new civil markets created by the breaking down of barriers in East Europe.

A third internationally owned company based on the Isle of Wight is Pilatus Britten-Norman, maker of islander aircraft. New orders announced earlier this year at the Hannover air show, and valued at more than £12 million, are destined for civil, paramilitary and defence force roles, ranging from the Pacific countries to Africa and the Mediterranean, as well as Europe.

New aircraft markets are being developed with police forces, which use it for traffic control, environmental agencies and smaller airline operators which value the adaptability of its design and its low running and maintenance costs.



Economic pragmatism: a reduced EC milk quota prompted Hugh Noyes to convert his farm into a rare breeds park

Man and nature in harmony

A new attraction, the Isle of Wight Rare Breeds and Waterfowl Park, is a good example of how tourism can benefit from the environment.

The park, which will be opened by Lord Shuttleworth, chairman of the Rural Development Commission, later this month, was created by Hugh Noyes, the county's High Sheriff, on 30 acres of coastal farm land in the island's south.

The converted dairy farm, set against the spectacular St Lawrence Undercliffe area, features ranch-style paddocks divided by wide walkways, created out of open fields, and more than 40 breeds of rare animals and fowl.

Wild creatures, such as a family of wallabies from

The island's latest attraction is a park for rare breeds of animals and waterfowl

Australia, are included in the collection, but the mainstay are rare types of domesticated animals such as cattle, pigs, deer and ponies. There are also sheep, goats and rabbits whose fleeces are valued for colour, softness or fineness.

The Noyes family is building on the strong craftwork tradition of the area by encouraging local spinners and weavers to work in converted farm buildings. Wool harvested from the animals is spun into yarn and hand-knitted into garments.

The park is also an example of how EC membership is already forcing changes. For

many years, the 200 acres that Mr Noyes inherited were kept as a dairy farm. The Common Agricultural Policy then introduced a quota of only half the milk produced by his herd of 100 cattle. After the traumatic experience of destroying

thousands of litres of top-grade milk, and paying a £3,500 fine for being over the quota, Mr Noyes decided to establish the park.

As High Sheriff, Mr Noyes plans to encourage wider use of locally produced foods. He was horrified to be offered Britany lamb and French mineral water at a banquet when top-quality equivalents are produced on the island.

AN EXTERIOR of shining metal makes the £26 million district hospital, opening at Newport this month, look as if it has already arrived in the 21st century. The building was designed by Richard Barton, of "monstrous carabuncle" fame. The hospital is claimed to use 50 per cent less fuel than a conventional equivalent through insulation and equipment that recovers heat from waste water and burning waste products.



EDUCATION and training are areas where the Isle of Wight has won national recognition for bringing together different sections of its community.

The island is proud of gaining one of the government's first prestigious Training and Enterprise Councils. It was also one of the first areas to be awarded government development funds.

A key requirement in obtaining the TEC was a demonstration of support from a range of business leaders as well as public and voluntary sector representatives.

Training for business

Education is uniting many different sectors of this island community

atives. The team then had to battle against government guidelines that implied that the island's relatively small employment base gave it little chance of success.

However, it is now a sizeable entity in the local business scene. New premises in Newport, the island's capital, will enable it to provide a

range of services and to offer a focus for the many voluntary and other groups engaged in various aspects of training.

Another example of a partnership between the public and private sector is a 280-place primary school, which John Lelliott Residential, a London-based construction company, built for the county

council as the first phase of a £12 million town centre development plan.

The island's College of Arts and Technology is applying entrepreneurial skills to marketing its courses. Brian Marriott, the headmaster, has twice visited the Far East to market courses to overseas students who want to improve their English.

A company, Growing Places, was formed to give horticultural students practical experience of selling plants and there are plans to operate the college's catering restaurant on a similar basis.

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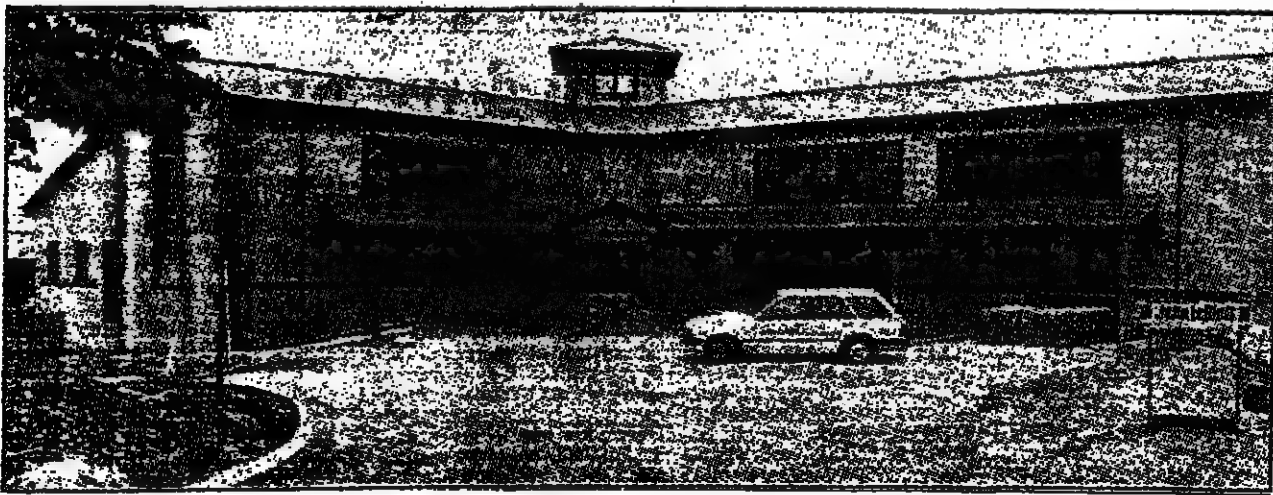
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Recently completed - a new 280 place primary school at Edinburgh Road, Cowes for the Isle of Wight County Council.



Work has now commenced on a new development of luxury one, two and three bedroom apartments in the centre of West Cowes which will have the benefit of spectacular views over the harbour and the Solent. Completion due Autumn 1991.

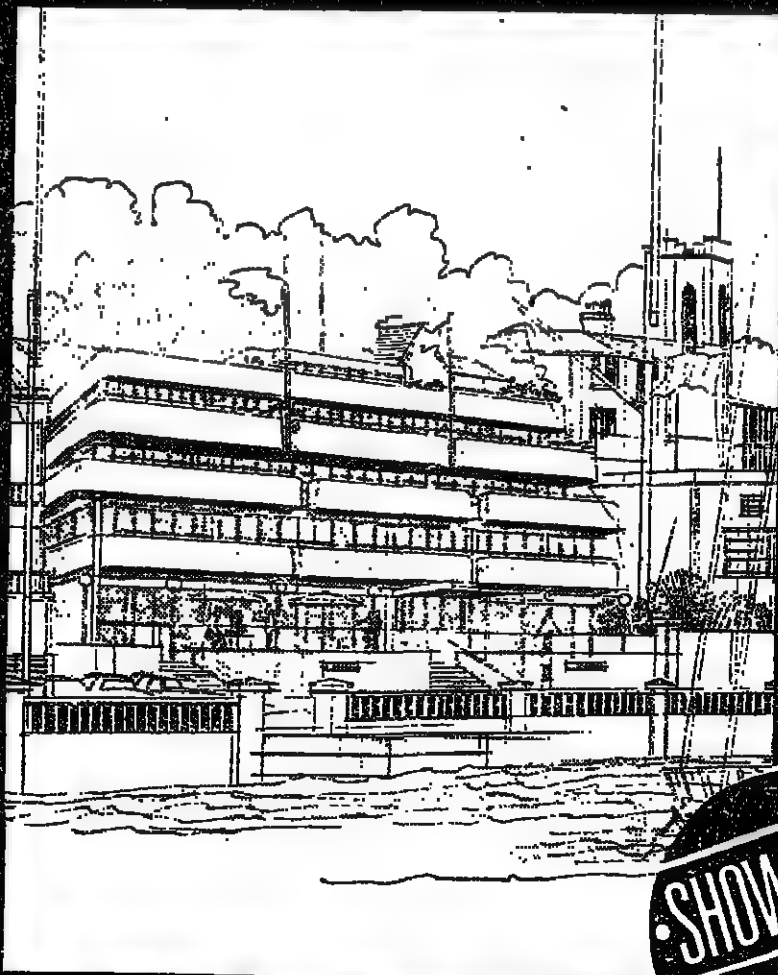
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Progressive Red Toto has scope to complete treble

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

AFTER Mito had just been beaten in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe two years ago, Michael Phillips, one of the many Englishmen present at Longchamp that day, was so impressed by what he had just seen that he commissioned Mito's trainer, Alex Stewart, to buy him a yearling.

Since called Red Toto, the object of the exercise is now my map to win the valuable Leslie and Goodwin Spirefire Handicap at Goodwood today. Red Toto is by that influential stallion Habitat, whose stock in the main have been on soft going.

Indeed, the former the better for Red Toto, so he should be in his element as he endeavours to win his third successive race on the firm ground which prevails on the Sussex track.

The impression I gained from watching Red Toto win at Newmarket last time was that he will turn out to be good value for the 4lb penalty which has taken his weight to 9st 10lb. Previously he had been equally commanding at Yarmouth.

Twelve months ago, Khalid Abdullah, Guy Harwood and Pat Eddery won the corres-



Alex Stewart, the trainer of Red Toto (Goodwood 3.40) pointing race with Biennial. Today they rely on Aromatic, who, once freed from his duties as a pacesetter, started to pay for his keep by winning at Lingfield three weeks ago.

On that form he has the best of the bottom weight, Millfields Lady, who has won twice at Goodwood this season.

Yet Red Toto has still made the greater impression on me. Luca Cumani trained this race in the mid-Eighties, when it was known as the EBF Selsey Maiden Stakes, could well be foiled by Majestic, who was caught on the post at Newbury first time out.

A victory for Baysham in the Richmond Towers Diamond Jubilee Handicap will

Whatever Kawthar achieves he should still finish in front of Royal Verge judged on how they performed in the race won by Prince Hannibal at Kempton last month.

Today's programme begins with the group three Molecomb Stakes, which offers it's All Academic an ideal opportunity to take her revenge on Seductress for that half-length defeat in the Chesterfield Stakes at Newmarket now that she will be meeting her on 3lb better terms.

Having progressed steadily up the ladder by winning four handicaps this season, Red Toto looks poised to add the Schroeders Glorious Stakes to his tally at the expense of the disappointing three-year-old Spinning, who has not missed a race since even though he has won twice.

Following a sound run at Sandown last time where he accounted for all but the promising Hiltah, Alnaab (4.45) can be a second winner for Hated's jockey Willie Carson, but Shedad, his mount in the EBF Selsey Maiden Stakes, could well be foiled by Majestic, who was caught on the post at Newbury first time out.

A victory for Baysham in the Richmond Towers Diamond Jubilee Handicap will

simply draw attention to the chance of Dry Point in the Maloney and Rhodes Handicap at Newmarket later in the evening. At Ascot last Friday Baysham finished only half a length behind Dry Point who in turn was beaten only a neck by Yasiroun.

In the Forties Aviation Battle of Britain Stakes, both Crack and Northern Hal will excel in my view if can give 4lb to Admiral Byng and Kaher. Both ran well in defeat last time, Admiral Byng when he was beaten by Hajade over today's course and distance and Kaher when he just lost out to Admiral Byng's stable-companion Roadstone at Leicester.

In this instance I just prefer Admiral Byng, whose jockey Steve Beauford can also land a second in the Hotel Handicap for Con Horgan, his consistent five-year-old Empire Jay.

Walter Swinburn will be hopeful of winning the last two races on the programme on Desert Dirham (8.10), a promising newcomer from Michael Stoute's stable, and Hebbia (8.35), who has been working with great gusto recently.

Blinkered first time GOODWOOD 3.10 Kawthar, 5.20 Seductress, 6.45 King Cracker, 8.10 Baysham, 8.35 Majestic, 8.55 Mito's Bay.

Lingfield sale looks imminent

LINGFIELD Park racecourse is expected to be sold this week for around £15 million. The deadline for bids, imposed by receivers Cork Gully, expired yesterday.

The site, which also includes a golf course, was first put on offer six months ago for £30 million. However, when the receivers were appointed on May 3 they decided to reduce the asking price to around £17 million.

Although the buyer has yet to be named, Raccourse Holdings Trust, an arm of the Jockey Club, has been linked with the sale. As Lingfield is one of two all-weather venues in Britain, the Jockey Club would clearly be unhappy with a sale which did not include plans for racing to continue there.

According to Cork Gully, Lingfield Park Ltd has debts of more than £35 million and an estimated deficiency to creditors of £12.6 million. The Levy Board landed the racecourse company £1.5 million, which is secured on the land and buildings.

SIS ruling sought page 22

Pearce loses Ascot appeal

LYDIA Pearce and the Pin Oak Stud, respectively the jockey and owner of If Memory Serves, yesterday lost their appeals against the decision of the Ascot stewards to disqualify the colt from first place in the Pigot Diamond Stakes last Saturday.

However, Pearce expressed herself "extremely unhappy" and the outcome of the arbitration hearing. "There have been far worse instances."

Guide to our in-line racecard

Race number, Draw in brackets, Six-figure race time, F - fall, P - pulled up, U - unsound, R - brought down, S - slipped up, R - refused, D - disqualified, H - horse, C - course, O - out, G - good, B - best, W - winner, L - loser, M - minor, S - serious, T - trainer, A - age, W - weight, R - rider, P - plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.15 RICHMOND TOWERS DIAMOND JUBILEE HANDICAP (27,895: 7f) (BBC2)

401 (1) 10-10-10 SCARLETT HOLLY 22 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
402 (2) 10-10-10 SCARLETT HOLLY 22 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
403 (3) 10-10-10 SCARLETT HOLLY 22 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
404 (4) 10-10-10 SCARLETT HOLLY 22 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
405 (5) 10-10-10 SCARLETT HOLLY 22 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
406 (6) 10-10-10 SCARLETT HOLLY 22 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

4.45 CHICHESTER CITY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £5,526: 7f) (runners)

501 (1) 4-4-4 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
502 (2) 4-4-4 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
503 (3) 4-4-4 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
504 (4) 4-4-4 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
505 (5) 4-4-4 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
506 (6) 4-4-4 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

5.30 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

5.50 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.00 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.10 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.20 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.30 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.40 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.50 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

7.00 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

7.10 EBF SELSEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: colts & geldings: 507: 6f) (runners)

601 (1) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
602 (2) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
603 (3) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
604 (4) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
605 (5) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
606 (6) 5-5-5 ALMAAB 15 (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

THIRSK

Selections
By Mandarin
2.15 Sir Harry Hardman, 2.50 Lucky Barnes, 3.20 Fair Enchantress, 3.55 Pussy Foot, 4.25 Barney O'Neill, 4.55 High Spirited.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.15 Dashing Prince, 3.20 Business As Usual, 3.55 Pussy Foot.

Going: firm Draw: 5f, high numbers best. SIS
2.15 LEWIS GEIPEL MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP (Nursery Handicap: 2-Y-O: £2,950: 5f) (8 runners)
1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
2 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
3 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
4 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
5 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
6 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
7 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

2.15 LEWIS GEIPEL MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP (Nursery Handicap: 2-Y-O: £2,950: 5f) (8 runners)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
2 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
3 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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5 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
6 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
7 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

2.50 GOLDEN FLEECE SELLING STAKES (2,498: 1m 4f) (8)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
2 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
3 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
4 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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7 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

3.20 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION SERIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,460: 7f) (16)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
2 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
3 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
4 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
5 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
6 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
7 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.15 SIZZLING SAGA, 6.45 Varsity, 7.15 Durslem, 7.45 Carefree Times, 8.15 On Strike, 8.45 Makeshift.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
7.45 Carefree Times, 8.15 On Strike, 8.45 Makeshift.

6.15 ROBERT WHITE MEMORIAL CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,364: 5f) (5 runners)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
2 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
3 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
4 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
5 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.45 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS HANDICAP (2,385: 7f) (8)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
2 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
3 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
4 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
5 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
6 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
7 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.50 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS HANDICAP (2,385: 7f) (8)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
2 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
3 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
4 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
5 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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7 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.50 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS HANDICAP (2,385: 7f) (8)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.50 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS HANDICAP (2,385: 7f) (8)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

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5 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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7 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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4 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
5 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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6.50 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS HANDICAP (2,385: 7f) (8)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.50 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS HANDICAP (2,385: 7f) (8)

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8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

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8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54

6.50 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS HANDICAP (2,385: 7f) (8)

1 41 SIR HARRY HARDMAN 25 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
2 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. Eddery 54
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8 1012 BRIDGE 10 (J.P. S.) (Mrs J. MacCall) P. E

ATHLETICS

A faltering Yates looks to put right event to his name

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

NOT so much Matthew Who as more as Matthew Yates. The name in athletics, but it is becoming harder to put an event to it.

Yates was always an 800 metres runner, but in the Panasonic AAA and WAAA championships today and tomorrow he will be found in the 1,500 metres. Always tends to suggest a long time, but in Yates's case it only seems that way. A lot has happened to him since this time last year.

The AAA championships last year marked the arrival of Yates as an international athlete. By finishing second, he secured a Commonwealth Games 800 metres place while Steve Cram was to be left at home. Six months later the experts who had criticised his inclusion were biting their tongues when Yates won a bronze medal ahead of Tom McKean and Sebastian Coe.

That was Yates's last good 800 metres. This season his form over two laps has, by his own admission, been "appalling". He has failed to break 1min 47sec in five races while McKean and David Sharpe

have managed it almost every time out.

In the second of two 1,500 metres races this season, he ran 3min 35.15sec in the Barcelona Games at Crystal Palace, improving his best by nine seconds. So the 1,500 metres it is in tonight's heats at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, where Steve Cram is also expected.

Yates versus Cram for the first time, provided the injuries that both have been carrying do not prevent it from happening either in heats or final. Cram has said he will risk his recent Achilles trouble in "the biggest gamble of my career".

It is the biggest gamble of Yates's career too, albeit a career in its infancy by comparison with Cram's. Yates, aged 21, is not just a novice at 1,500 metres; he is a novice with stiff thighs after an over-zealous masseur went to work on him on Tuesday.

Yates insists that the switch is as much a part of the learning process as it is of his loss of form over 800 metres. "I know I can run faster," he said. "And the physiological

tests I have had have said that I am going to be a miler."

Yates is perhaps as responsible as anyone for the change in selection policy which will determine the athletes who go to the European championships in Split from August 27 to September 1. At the AAAs last year, the first two in each event were guaranteed places in the England team; this time, with British vests rather than English ones at stake, it is only one.

The policy was changed in November largely because Cram failed to win a berth in either Commonwealth middle distance event while he was champion of both.

Today's programme includes 11 finals, the best of which should be the men's 100 metres, 110 metres hurdles and 5,000 metres.

In the 5,000 metres Eamonn Martin, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, lines up against Gary Staines. A cold kept Martin out of the Bislett Games, where he was to have sought his European qualifying time in the 10,000 metres. A failed attempt to get the time in Glasgow last Friday means that it is the 5,000 metres or nothing for him in Split.

TIME TABLE OF FINALS: Today, 8.30pm: men's 100m; 8.50pm: women's 100m; 9.10pm: men's 110m hurdles; 9.30pm: women's 110m hurdles; 9.50pm: men's 1500m; 10.10pm: women's 1500m; 10.30pm: men's 5000m; 10.50pm: women's 5000m; 11.10pm: men's 10000m; 11.30pm: women's 10000m; 11.50pm: men's 5000m; 12.10pm: women's 5000m; 12.30pm: men's 10000m; 12.50pm: women's 10000m; 1.10pm: men's 5000m; 1.30pm: women's 5000m; 1.50pm: men's 10000m; 2.10pm: women's 10000m; 2.30pm: men's 5000m; 2.50pm: women's 5000m; 3.10pm: men's 10000m; 3.30pm: women's 10000m; 3.50pm: men's 5000m; 4.10pm: women's 5000m; 4.30pm: men's 10000m; 4.50pm: women's 10000m; 5.10pm: men's 5000m; 5.30pm: women's 5000m; 5.50pm: men's 10000m; 6.10pm: women's 10000m; 6.30pm: men's 5000m; 6.50pm: women's 5000m; 7.10pm: men's 10000m; 7.30pm: women's 10000m; 7.50pm: men's 5000m; 8.10pm: women's 5000m; 8.30pm: men's 10000m; 8.50pm: women's 10000m; 9.10pm: men's 5000m; 9.30pm: women's 5000m; 9.50pm: men's 10000m; 10.10pm: women's 10000m; 10.30pm: men's 5000m; 10.50pm: women's 5000m; 11.10pm: men's 10000m; 11.30pm: women's 10000m; 11.50pm: men's 5000m; 12.10pm: women's 5000m; 12.30pm: men's 10000m; 12.50pm: women's 10000m; 1.10pm: men's 5000m; 1.30pm: women's 5000m; 1.50pm: men's 10000m; 2.10pm: women's 10000m; 2.30pm: men's 5000m; 2.50pm: women's 5000m; 3.10pm: men's 10000m; 3.30pm: women's 10000m; 3.50pm: men's 5000m; 4.10pm: women's 5000m; 4.30pm: men's 10000m; 4.50pm: women's 10000m; 5.10pm: men's 5000m; 5.30pm: women's 5000m; 5.50pm: men's 10000m; 6.10pm: women's 10000m; 6.30pm: men's 5000m; 6.50pm: women's 5000m; 7.10pm: men's 10000m; 7.30pm: women's 10000m; 7.50pm: men's 5000m; 8.10pm: women's 5000m; 8.30pm: men's 10000m; 8.50pm: women's 10000m; 9.10pm: men's 5000m; 9.30pm: women's 5000m; 9.50pm: men's 10000m; 10.10pm: women's 10000m; 10.30pm: men's 5000m; 10.50pm: women's 5000m; 11.10pm: men's 10000m; 11.30pm: women's 10000m; 11.50pm: men's 5000m; 12.10pm: women's 5000m; 12.30pm: men's 10000m; 12.50pm: women's 10000m; 1.10pm: men's 5000m; 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Government under attack over question of dropping PE from national curriculum in favour of academic subjects

The age of the well-rounded individual at stake

By JOHN GOODBODY

LEADING figures in physical education, sport and teaching yesterday criticised a government announcement that PE could be dropped from the national curriculum for pupils aged 14 to 16.

There is concern at the words this week of John MacGregor, the education secretary, that he was asking the national curriculum council to see whether art, music and PE might be dropped in that age band to accommodate purely academic subjects.

Margaret Talbot, the Carnegie professor at Leeds Polytechnic, and a member of the government's working group on PE in state schools, said: "It was a bit depressing to read that when we are about to begin work on the guidelines for PE, it is not just PE, music and art are also things that make children well-rounded individuals. Yet it seems they are expendable. I do not understand the rationale."

"It seems that the emphasis is going to be on collecting GCSEs at the expense of the whole edu-

cation of the child. This comes at a time when the government and the public are complaining that the youth of the country are too often uncouth, unfit and uneducated."

She also pointed out that, in purely vocational terms, PE did widen the options of the school leaver because the sport and leisure industry employs more people than the car industry, fisheries and agriculture together.

"Furthermore, by eliminating PE, the one subject that is not primarily cerebral or intellectual,

you will not have a very balanced curriculum." Professor Talbot added that some secondary schools had already made PE only an optional subject.

She still regarded the working party, announced by the government last month, as a "unique opportunity" to have proper guidelines for pupils from the age of five upwards.

MacGregor told the annual conference of the Professional Association of Teachers on Tuesday that there was no understating the value of art, music and PE.

"They are all subjects in which pupils not taking GCSEs would be unlikely to get much less time and where there is scope for activity outside the timetable."

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that he understood why MacGregor wanted to introduce greater flexibility in schools because the national curriculum was a strait-jacket. He said that it seemed a step in the right direction but there were two problems. "By dropping art, music and PE you immediately

condemn them to being second-class subjects. You devalue their contribution to a well-rounded education." And by giving the green light to schools to opt out, you created first- and second-tier schools, he said.

Some of the schools would not have the commitment of staff and parents and facilities or the catchment area to allow PE and sport to flourish outside school hours. He termed the situation "quite worrying". And schools which chose to opt out would put their emphasis on the academic subjects in the

national curriculum because that was what the customer (the parents) would demand.

"It will be a brave headmaster who, in a period of intense competition, goes against this structure. PE, art and music will become Cinderella subjects."

Mr Hart said that he wanted to see how the education secretary would provide the appropriate guarantees and he also wanted to see the debate take place in the wider context of the drop in the level of physical education

Letters, page 11

GOLF

Little left to chance in Evans's quest for famous double

By JOHN HENNESSY

AND then there was one. With the downfall of Ricky Willison in the morning and the victories of Gary Evans, both morning and sweltering afternoon, only one of the eight seeds has survived to claim his appointed place in this morning's quarter-finals of the English Amateur Golf Championship.

Evans, from Worthing, plays Peter Sefton, of Camberley Heath, this morning. The other ties are: Lee Yearn (Ely City) v Oliver Thomson (Sand Moor); Liam White (Wolton Park) v Andrew Duffin (Three Rivers); and Ian Garbutt (Wheatley) v Mark Dove (Broadway).

Evans thus keeps alive his hope of adding the English matchplay title to the strokeplay championship he won at Burnham and Berrow, in company with a French

player, earlier in the season. Not since Michael Bonallack's achievement in 1968 has anyone held the two titles simultaneously.

Evans, driven on by a series of ambitions to gain an England cap this year, now virtually assured, a Walker Cup place next year and a prosperous professional career further ahead, has left nothing to chance this week. He arrived with his caddy on Friday to pace the course and his caddy, already facing two rounds yesterday, had to be up at 6.30am to locate the pin positions.

However effective his research was, it did not seem important to start with, when David McDoldridge, of Calcut Park, aged 16, stood over a 30-inch putt for a win at the 18th, but it escaped, as did one from eight feet at the 19th. Sefton then coasted the ball home from six feet.

realised he had a fight on his hands. McDoldridge, seven years the senior at 28, indeed went ahead with a delicious chip and run for a birdie four at the long 9th, but as it turned out, it was the only time he was ahead.

Evans took three holes in a row from the 10th, punishing every misdeed, and in spite of a great mid-iron to two feet at the 13th and a chip-in at the 15th, both for birdies, McDoldridge could never again get on terms and he surrendered on the 17th without Evans having to putt.

Sefton must have thought his championship was at an end when Richard Walton, of Calcut Park, aged 16, stood over a 30-inch putt for a win at the 18th, but it escaped, as did one from eight feet at the 19th. Sefton then coasted the ball home from six feet.

The signs are that Garbutt, aged 18 and last year's England boys' champion, will take Willison's place as the man to beat in the bottom half of the draw.

He beat Nigel Willis, of Shirley Park, by five and three in the fifth round, and always seemed on course for a handsome victory from the moment he holed a birdie putt at

RESULTS FROM WOODHALL SPA

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